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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the chances of the Legislature passing a budget before the fiscal year ends on Oct. 1?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Re-election Bid

The man who ran on hope and change in 2008 will have to claw his way toward a second term.

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Old Soul

Endlessly perky and incredibly well-behaved, Bailee Madison fields questions with adult aplomb.

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Capitol Poker robbery suspect falls. PAGE 3
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Child tax credit checks out this week

» Over 3,000 checks worth $4.6M

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Unmindful of the frenzy around her, Miragrace Tupas, 3, sits comfortably in a shopping cart as her parents and older siblings do their last-minute, back-to-school shopping at the National Office Supply along Beach Road yesterday afternoon. The girl's parents said it would be nice to receive their child tax credit checks this week to help buy all the required school supplies for two of their children. Today is the opening of classes for public schools.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Between today and Friday, a little over 3,000 child tax credit checks totaling some $4.6 million will be mailed out, just in time for this week's opening of public schools—as what the administration had originally anticipated.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that Department of Finance personnel have been preparing the first batch of checks since the weekend for them to be able to start mailing them out "as early as" today and "as late as Friday."

"The checks will be out this week," Inos told *Saipan*

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Senate taps NMC students for Saipan casino survey

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate leadership is tapping Northern Marianas College students under the current issues class of Sam McPhetres to survey registered voters whether they want casino gambling to be legalized on Saipan, even as the House takes no action on a Senate bill seeking a special election for the same question.

Torres

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), author of Senate Bill 17-90, said yesterday that senators will go over the details of the survey with McPhetres this week.

"We would like to give the opportunity to NMC students to be part of the process in asking the voters whether they want casinos on Saipan," Torres said

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PARENTAL DILEMMA:

Whether to spy on their kids

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—In the 21st century, parenthood and paranoia often walk hand in hand.

For some, the blessed event is followed by high-tech surveillance—a monitoring system tracks the baby's breathing rhythms and relays infrared images from the nursery. The next investment might be a nanny cam, to keep watch on the child's hired caregivers. Toddlers and grade schoolers can be equipped with GPS devices enabling a parent to know their location should something go awry.

To cope with the uncertainties of the teen years, some parents acquire spyware to monitor their children's online and cell phone activity. Others resort to home drug-testing kits.

Added together, there's a diverse, multi-billion-dollar industry seeking to capitalize on parents' worst fears about their children—fears aggravated by occasional high-profile abductions and the dangers lurking in cyberspace. One mistake can put a child at risk or go viral online, quickly ruining a reputation.

"There's a new set of challenges for parents, and all sorts of new tools that

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Local

SPY

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can help them do their job," said David Walsh, a child psychologist in Minneapolis. "On the other hand, we have very powerful industries that create these products and want to sell as many as possible, so they try to convince parents they need them."

Some parents need little convincing.

In New York City, a policeman-turned-politician recorded a video earlier this year offering tips to parents on how to search their children's bedrooms and possessions for drugs and weapons. In the video, State Sen. Eric Adams—who has a teenage son—insists that children have no constitutional right to privacy at home and shows how contraband could be hidden in backpacks, jewelry boxes, even under a doll's dress.

"You have a duty and obligation to protect the members of your household," he says.

Another parent who preaches proactive vigilance is Mary Kozakiewicz of Pittsburgh, whose daughter, Alicia, was abducted as a 13-year-old in 2002 by a man she met online. He chained, beat and raped her before she was rescued four days later.

In recent years, mother and daughter have both campaigned to raise awareness of Internet-related dangers.

Mary Kozakiewicz urges parents to monitor children's computer and cell phone use, and says those who balk out of respect for privacy are being naive.

"It's not about privacy—it's about keeping them safe," she said,

On a different part of the spectrum are parents such as Lenore Skenazy, a mother of two teens in New York City who wrote a book called "Free Range Kids: How To Raise Safe, Self-Reliant Children (Without Going Nuts with Worry)."

Skenazy, who let one of her sons ride the New York subway alone when he was 9, contends that many marketers exploit parents' ingrained worries about their children's safety. "The idea is that the only good parent is a parent who's somehow watching over their child 24/7," she said. "You feel nothing should take precedence over monitoring your child's well-being every second of the day ... from time they're born to when they go off to college."

Joe Kelly of St. Paul, Minn., helped his wife raise twin girls (they're now adults) and founded a national advocacy group called Dads and Daughters. Like Skenazy, he bemoans commercial exploitation of parental anxiety.

"Markets play on this fear that something horrific is going to happen to your child, when the odds of that are minuscule," he said. "It might happen, but to have their whole childhood predicated on this remote possibility is, in the aggregate, even more damaging."

Psychologists who work with troubled adolescents and teens say parents often ask if they should be doing more surveillance. "Ideally, parents establish good open communication and trust with their children, and they don't need to do all these things," said Neil Bernstein, a psychologist in Washington, D.C. "But if the child is doing something to create suspicion, you can't expect parents to turn their back and not monitor."

Bernstein, author of "How to Keep Your Teenager Out of Trouble and What to do if You Can't," says the best approach is a balanced one—neither overly zealous and paranoid nor uninvolved and neglectful.

A look at some of the monitoring tactics and products available to parents:

Baby monitors:

These devices—some limited to audio monitoring, others also with video capability—have developed a reputation as a mixed blessing. They can provide parents with peace of mind, freeing them to be elsewhere in the house while the baby naps, but sometimes they accentuate anxiety.

"Some parents are reassured by hearing and seeing every whimper and movement. Others find such close surveillance to be nerve-racking," says Consumer Reports, which has tested many of the monitors.

Skenazy likened night-vision baby monitors to the surveillance cameras used by convenience stores and prisons.

"It's treating your child's bedroom as if it's the streets of Kandahar," the battle-scarred Afghan city, she said.

The monitors operate within a selected radio frequency band to send sound from a baby's room to a receiver in another room, a technology which can be vulnerable to interference from other electronic devices. Prices of models tested by Consumer Reports ranged from $30 for audio monitors to more than $200 for some with video.

"Overall, baby monitors can be as temperamental as a 2-year-old," says Consumer Reports. "Interference is probably the biggest complaint, but parents also report such problems as low visibility, a shorter-than-expected reception range, and short battery life."

Models at the high end of the price scale include the Dropcam Echo audio-video system, for $279. Its manufacturer says the system automatically detects motion and sound, and sends alerts to a parent's smart phone or iPad.

Experts say baby monitors can provide a useful early warning if something is amiss, but caution that they should never substitute for adult supervision.

Parents are warned not to rely on monitors to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and they should be sure that the monitors' electrical cords are kept away from cribs. Earlier this year, about 1.7 million Summer Infant video monitors were recalled after being linked to the strangulation deaths of two infants.

Tracking devices:

Of the roughly 800,000 children reported missing in the U.S. each year, the vast majority are runaways or were abducted by a parent. But there are enough kidnappings by strangers—including a few each year that make national news—to fuel a large, evolving market for products catering to apprehensive parents.

The devices range from clip-on alarms to GPS locators that can be put in a backpack or stuffed in a doll, but they have limited range and can raise safety concerns of their own.

Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, says the devices can be helpful in some circumstances but worries about overreliance on them.

"Some of them encourage parents, perhaps unwittingly, to forget their basic responsibilities," he said. "There are parents who think they can depend on the technology, not on themselves."

He recounted the case of one little girl who activated her wristband alarm when she was abducted. The abductor cut off the device, left it behind and later killed the girl.

Allen said the child might have been better off yelling for help, rather than focusing on the alarm.

"Some of the new technology is extraordinary," Allen said. "But these shouldn't be used as substitutes for good old-fashioned parenting."

Generally, the gadgets are in two parts—a main device carried by the parent and a small alarm attached to the child. If a child vanishes, the parent can activate the alarm.

Other gadgets use GPS technology, relying on satellite signals, that allows parents using a Web browser to track the location of an enabled device such as a cell phone.

One company, BrickHouse Security, offers a GPS child locater for $200 that functions as a digital watch and can be locked into the child's wrist. If forcibly removed, an alert is sent to the parent's cell phone and email.

Some anxious parents wonder if a satellite-enabled tracking device could be implanted in their child—a technology now expanding in Mexico among people rattled by a kidnapping epidemic there. But Allen says such implantation, for children, could have grim consequences—a child who ran away from home or a noncustodial parent who abducted a child might make a grisly attempt to extract the device.

Spyware:

For many parents, one of the toughest decisions is whether to spy on a child's computer and cell phone activity. It's common for some children to send more than 100 text messages a day, and a recent Associated Press-MTV poll found that about one-quarter of teens had shared sexually explicit photos, videos and chat by cell phone or online.

Walsh, the Minneapolis psychologist, says the best initial step for parents concerned about online risks is a heart-to-heart talk with the child, with monitoring used as a contingency measure only if there's clear justification.

"If it does make sense to use some spyware, I would never do that in secret way," said Walsh, whose own three children are now adults. "Tell your children you'll check on them from time to time. Just that knowledge can be effective."

Mary Kozakiewicz disagrees, saying deployment of spyware must be kept secret.

"You can't let them know it's there, or they'll do it at a friend's house," she said.

Indeed, one of the challenges for some parents is a technology gap—their children may have more savvy about cyberspace and an ability to thwart various spyware tactics.

"Parents are trying to play catch up—and it's a highly fragmented, confusing sector," said Keith Jarrett of the AmberWatch Foundation, a nonprofit based in Seal Beach, Calif., dedicated to protecting children against abduction and "the dangers of the digital world."

AmberWatch promotes various safety devices and technologies, including SafeText—a system enabling parents, for $5 a month, to monitor their children's text-messaging. The system sends alerts when it detects potentially dangerous or inappropriate text messages, so the parents don't have to review vast numbers of messages themselves.

Another enterprise, Software4Parents, reviews and sells a range of spyware products. Its Web site features a comment by Mary Kozakiewicz after her abducted daughter was rescued.

"No matter how you feel about your child or how trusting you are that what's going on is innocent, check it, check it and double check it—or don't have (the Internet) at all," Kozakiewicz warns.

Among the site's featured products are Spector PRO and eBlaster, for sale at $99, and touted as ways way to monitor online chats, instant messages and emails.

"Receive complete transcripts of the web sites they visit, keystrokes they type and more—all delivered right to your email inbox," the site says.

Several spyware brands, including Mobile Spy and MobiStealth, now offer systems that work with Android, Google's operating system for mobile phones, ranging in price from $100 to $150 per year.

The software "gives you complete control over your child's cell phone," says MobiStealth.

Dr. Henry Gault, who practices child and adolescent psychiatry in Deerfield, Ill., says parents who spy on their children "are walking down a slippery slope" and may end up causing worse problems than the ones that prompted the surveillance.

"That should be the course of last resort," he said. "Essentially you're throwing in the towel and saying there's no trust anymore."

He suggested it's normal for children try to keep some secrets from their family.

"Parents shouldn't feel guilty not knowing 100 percent of what's going on," he said. "It's our job as parents to reduce risk, but you can never reduce the risk to zero."

Home drug tests:

Compared to tracking and spyware gadgets, home drug testing kits are relatively low-tech and inexpensive. But they raise tricky issues for parents, who may be torn between alienating their child on the one hand and living with unresolved doubts about possible drug abuse on the other.

David Walsh directed an adolescent treatment program earlier in his career and says the at-home tests can be appropriate when parents have solid reason for suspicion.

"When a son or daughter is getting seriously into drugs, one dynamic of that is denial," he said. "The stakes are so high. Parents can say, `We need to make sure you're not doing serious damage to yourself. We might occasionally test you.'"

In Colorado Springs, Colo., single mother Amanda Beihl was among the first to carve out a business from Internet sales of test kits, starting in 1999.

Beihl created homedrugtestingkit.com, selling kits to test for illicit drugs and alcohol use. Individual kits testing for a single drug cost as little as $3; a 10-substance kit sells for $19.95.

It's an ever-evolving field, Beihl says, as teens experiment with new hallucinogens or abuse a range of prescription drugs.

"A lot of parents say they're afraid of ruining their relation-

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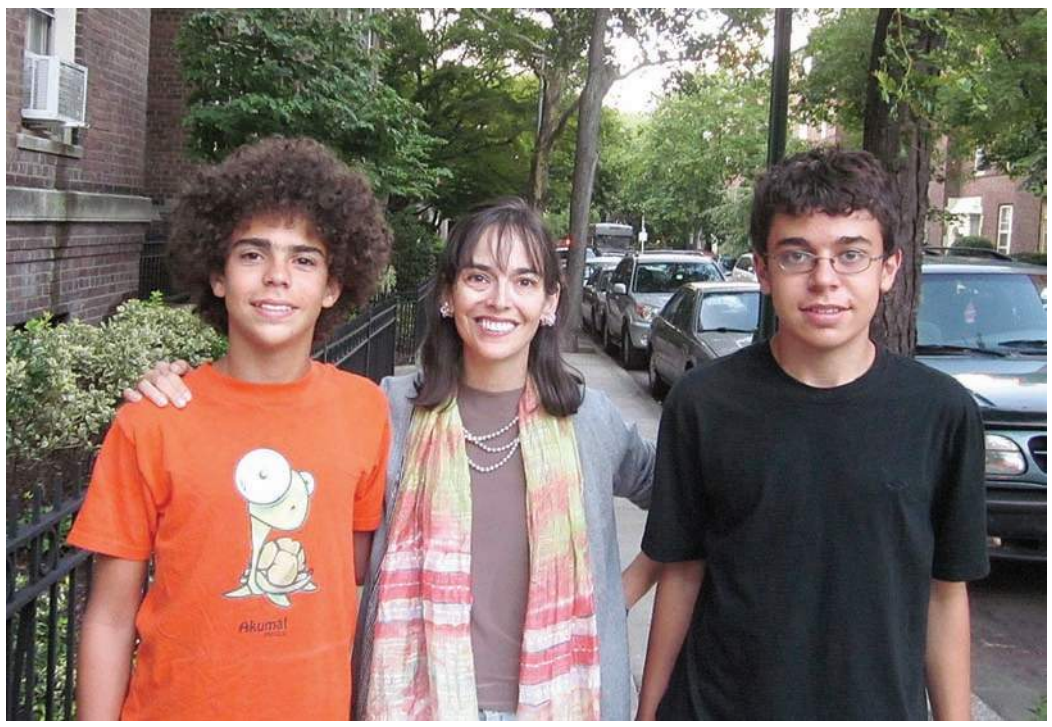

AP

This Aug. 23, 2011 photo provided by the family shows Lenore Skenazy, center, outside her apartment building in the Queens borough of New York with her sons Izzy, 13, left, and Morry, 15. Skenazy wrote a book called *Free Range Kids: How To Raise Safe, Self-Reliant Children (Without Going Nuts with Worry)*. She contends that many marketers exploit parents' ingrained worries about their children's safety. "The idea is that the only good parent is a parent who is somehow watching over their child 24/7," she said.

Nearly 600 teachers to welcome students to classes today

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Students in public schools throughout the Commonwealth will start classes today with nearly 600 classroom teachers ready to instruct them.

Public School System federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh said that 575 classroom teachers are employed by PSS as of last week. He expects more teachers to come aboard in the next few weeks as contracts for new hires and replacement positions are processed.

Human resource officer Coreen Palacios, when visited at her office last week, confirmed that they are still processing some teachers' contracts but refused to give the number of classroom teachers currently with the system.

All 575 classroom teachers are highly qualified pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act mandate that requires all school districts to employ highly qualified personnel beginning July 31, 2011.

PSS will welcome today 10,737 students from kindergarten to high school in its 20 campuses on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan reportedly visited Tinian schools last week to ensure that they are ready for today's opening.

Sablan told the board that this year's enrollment is composed of 5,288 elementary students, 4,987 high school students, and 462 Head Start students.

Regular classroom teacher assignments are also complete at 15 public schools—Gregorio T. Camacho, Tanapag, Oleai, San Vicente, Dandan, San Antonio, Koblerville, Tinian, and Sinapalo elementary schools; Chacha Oceanview Junior High School; Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, Rota, Saipan Southern, and Kagman high schools.

As of Aug. 25, PSS was still hiring 20 more teachers for Garapan, Kagman, and William S. Reyes elementary schools; Hopwood Junior High School, Marianas High School, and for special education classes in four other schools.

Besides the readiness of classroom teachers, PSS is also ready to transport all enrollees with 26 school buses and six mini vans.

Pupil transportation program manager Eric Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* that all 26 buses are considered new and fully operational.

For Saipan schools, Atalig said the department has 17 drivers who underwent professional development trainings and workshops to ensure passengers' safety.

All buses will roll out of central bus station at 6:45am with first pickup at 7am.

Elementary schools will start classes at 8am, while secondary schools will commence classes at 8:30am.

The Food and Nutrition Services department, according to Thornburgh, is also set for class opening. It is set to deliver over four million free meals for the entire school year.

Thornburgh said that PSS estimates to serve over a million breakfast meals, 2.1 million lunches, and 960,000 nutritious snacks in school year 2011-2012.

Classrooms, school facilities

Kagman High School principal Alfred Ada said his school is ready to receive all 673 enrollees. He said KHS has 25 classroom teachers all set to start classes at 8:30am today.

Prior to today's opening, Ada said orientations for both students and stakeholders were conducted to ensure the smooth transition of students.

At Hopwood Junior High School, a total of 1,114 enrollees will be handled by 43 teachers.

Because of the re-zoning implemented this school year, Hopwood is expected to be less overcrowded because many students from the villages of Tanapag and San Roque will attend classes at Chacha Oceanview Junior High in Kagman.

All major repairs and renovations of 20 public schools were funded by the $32.4 million state fiscal stabilization fund awarded to PSS in fiscal year 2010.

Beginning this year, two schools will start accommodating sixth graders. Kagman Elementary School will bring back its sixth graders from Chacha Oceanview Junior High, while Sinapalo Elementary will accommodate sixth graders from Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior High, which is now merged with Rota High School.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Families crowd the National Office Supply along Beach Road for their last-minute, back-to-school shopping yesterday afternoon, in time for today's opening of public schools.

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Capitol Poker robbery suspect falls

Police arrested over the weekend the suspect in the broad daylight robbery at Capitol Poker in Sadog Tasi, the *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Sources disclosed that police officers served the arrest warrant on George Castro on Sunday.

Castro is now being detained at the Department of Corrections for robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and other charges.

At least three officers from the Department of Public Safety confirmed Castro's arrest.

The suspect is expected to be taken to the Superior Court today, Tuesday, for his initial court appearance.

The suspect was armed with a knife when he reportedly tied a 56-year-old male cashier and robbed Capitol Poker on Aug. 29, 2011, at 9am.

A surveillance camera captured the robbery. The poker establishment's owner showed the footage to police investigators. KSPN aired the footage last week.

The suspect was playing poker when he called the cashier about a problem with the machine. As the cashier was checking the machine, the suspect suddenly pulled out a knife, grabbed him from behind, and pointed it at his neck or chest.

The robber then dragged the cashier to the cashier's booth and tied the victim's hands behind his back before taking the money from the counter.

Although he was tied up, the cashier managed to call his employer, who then called the police.

It was the third robbery at Capitol Poker since April 2004. The two previous incidents were also solved and resulted in convictions.

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Govt seeks Interior grant for wage survey

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While the Fitial administration has yet to receive word from the U.S. Department of Labor on the CNMI government's $40,701.99 grant application to fund a prevailing wage survey, it has also asked the U.S. Department of the Interior for some $90,000 in grant money for the survey and training of personnel required to institutionalize the program.

But acting governor Eloy S. Inos said regardless of when these grant applications are decided on, the government will move ahead with the prevailing wage survey.

Inos said the administration had an understanding with the Interior to allow the government to use a portion of $1 million grant money awarded to the CNMI in July for the wage survey, should their separate grant application for the wage survey is not approved. That $1 million grant is meant to, among other things, resuscitate the ailing economy.

"From our standpoint, we filed the application (with U.S. Labor) and we haven't received formal denial but in the meantime, we're proceeding with the survey," Inos said.

He said the administration asked for some $90,000 in grant money from the Interior "to include training for the people because we want to be able to establish it, institutionalize the program, so we can periodically do it."

The government wage survey is separate from a similar survey being done by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which received from the Interior a $16,150 technical assistance grant.

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Chamber, said yesterday that they will remind members again to turn in they wage survey forms by Friday, Sept. 9.

Audit on PSS shows deficiencies, noncompliance with regs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

An independent audit conducted on the Public School System for last fiscal year revealed significant deficiencies and noncompliance with PSS' policies and regulations as well as federal standards.

The audit, conducted by J. Scott Magliari, found that bank reconciliations for nine accounts were not timely prepared while two accounts have an unaccounted difference amounting to $26,504.

PSS, in its response, said it experienced a turnover of key employees and lack of qualified personnel in the Fiscal and Budget Division in fiscal year 2010. It said it will hire a general ledger accountant by May this year and promised to reconcile all bank accounts in a timely manner.

Due to the lack of personnel, PSS also failed to recognize significant accounting transactions such as the unrecorded revenues from the CNMI government appropriation amounting to $4.1 million; accrual of receivables from fiscal year 2010 appropriation amounting to $1.085 million as well as accrual of NMI Retirement Fund contributions amounting to $5.1 million, according to the audit.

The audit also found that PSS made unauthorized withdrawals of $1.8 million from the general obligation bond, which is restricted, because of the funding shortfall from the local government. PSS said it will restore the borrowed funds and vowed to adhere to standards.

A change order of $39,000 was also approved for a professional development contract with an original price of $170,000. The change order is 23 percent of the original contract and exceeded the allowable 10-percent variance.

PSS said its procurement officer had aligned the change order regulation for PSS with the CNMI procedure, which allows a 25-percent variance from the original contract.

The unauthorized use of a PSS credit card was also uncovered when the system paid a total of $3,875 for food on three separate occasions, one of which was approved after the transaction.

The auditor noted that because PSS does not have formal credit card policies and procedures in place, unrecorded or unauthorized disbursements could be incurred and not be detected in a timely manner. PSS said it adopted new policies and procedures in February 2011.

Personnel requirements, travel

Eleven of the 40 employee files audited, meanwhile, did not have the physical examination on file—a violation of the system's human resources policies. PSS said that it adopted in October 2010 procedures to ensure that all required documents are on file.

Because of the personnel turnover at the HR department, this also resulted in findings that some 30 employee files have no application evaluation and assessment form on file, which is important in determining the pay rate of the employee.

PSS was also found noncompliant with its own procurement policies when the audit discovered some products and services that were provided before purchase orders were released.

The report also indicated that there were authorizations for travel outside the CNMI that were not provided for examination while others were not submitted within the prescribed period.

"With the large volume of travel authorizations [TAs] processed, PSS should explore the option of electronic filing and approval of travel authorizations," the auditor recommended. PSS, for its part, indicated that it will use electronic filing of travel authorizations effective April 2011.

The same audit findings revealed that PSS issued travel advances with unliquidated TAs to 20 travelers amounting to $21,968. Some liquidations did not also occur within the prescribed period amounting to $6,816, while 13 TAs that were not liquidated totaling $13,847 were found. There were also liquidation not on file, amounting to $6,770, and supporting travel documents that were not on file, amounting to $12,994.

The audit also showed that PSS recorded a questioned cost of $393,300 in fiscal year 2010, with supporting documents not on file for entries on salaries and wages from the general fund to specific federal programs.

PSS also failed to address and rectify specific findings in previous years' audits. In fiscal year 2009, a total of 10 findings, majority of which involved travel of employees, are still marked "unresolved."

CHILD TAX

From Page 1

Tribune in a brief phone interview yesterday afternoon.

Yesterday was Labor Day holiday, and the post office was closed.

Inos said if the stamping, signing, and cutting of checks, among other things, are completed today, they will be immediately mailed out before the close of day.

But if the process takes longer, the checks could be mailed out Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the over 3,000 checks are part of the first batch. Besides this, there's some 500 more certification application submitted to the U.S. Treasury.

"When these are mailed out—the over 3,000 and the additional 500—they'll be about 75 percent of the total checks that will be mailed out this week. The others will be sent later," he added.

If the checks come out today, it will coincide with the first day of classes for public schools.

The federal child tax credit is available to taxpayers who have a child under the age of 17. It is worth up to $1,000 per "qualifying" child.

In general, a "qualifying" child is any individual for whom the taxpayer can claim a dependency exemption and who is the taxpayer's son or daughter, stepson or stepdaughter, brother or sister, or eligible foster child.

On Friday, the administration said the checks could miss the opening day of public schools but this changed later when the government received the transfer of funds from the federal government.

Back-to-school shopping

Many families rely on child tax credit checks for back-to-school shopping but because the checks couldn't be received until this week, many of them had to dig deeper into their pockets.

Dindo Tupas, 42, said he and his wife spent over $100 yesterday at the National Office Supply on Beach Road for the school supplies of two of their three children attending Garapan Elementary School.

Tupas said he sold his old car for $400 to help buy his children's school supplies.

"It would be a big help if the child tax credit checks are released this week," the father of three said in an interview while he, his wife, and three children were shopping. He said he expects over $2,000 in child tax credit.

He showed the list of required school supplies he needed to buy for his children, including spiral-bound notebooks, crayons, markers, pencils, glue sticks, scissors, jacket (as the classroom could get cold), facial tissue, hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, and a plastic cup for water.

Michelle Rasa, a social studies and language arts teacher at Saipan Southern High School and a mother of two public school students, said "it would be nice" to have the child tax credit checks this week.

"My students will be happy about that," she said.

Rasa said high school teachers give the list of required school supplies on the first week of school, which is just in time for the government's distribution of the child tax credit checks that parents rely on for back-to-school shopping.

Jun Azarcon, 44, also went shopping with his three children yesterday afternoon. He said he spent almost $50 for the school supplies of his children aged 7, 10, and 12.

"I'm not expecting a child tax credit check because of problems with my previous employer. But I will be applying for next year," he said.

Rebate, refund checks

After the child tax credit checks are distributed, the administration hopes to start processing tax refund and rebate checks.

Inos said these checks would be released no later than December.

The CNMI government's financial problems make it harder to release tax rebate and refund checks earlier than expected. The limited cash collections are used for priority programs such as the delivery of critical services. Payroll is almost always delayed for non-critical government employees since June 2010 also because of cash shortage.

A refund is for tax that has been overpaid or incorrectly paid, and is returned to the taxpayer. It is different from the rebate, which is for tax properly paid and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision.

SPY

From Page 2

ship with their kid—they don't want to be seen as the bad guy," Beihl said. "I tell them, if you're already worried about it, the relationship is probably not that great."

Kim Hildreth, 52, of Dallas, tested both her daughters during their teens. They're now in their 20s, and provide occasional assistance as she runs a company, drugtestyourteen.com, that sells testing kits online.

Hildreth has been in the business since 2003 and says she has many repeat customers—parents who used the tests on an older child and now worry about a younger sibling.

In Hildreth's case, she opted for testing after concluding that her oldest daughter's best friend was using methamphetamine.

"None of us wants to believe our kids are capable of that," Hildreth said. "Denial is a much more comfortable place."

She also later tested her younger daughter, to the point where resentment surfaced, but said both daughters are now staunch proponents of testing.

"We all think we know our kids, but they can change on a dime, and bad things can happen before you even figure it out," Hildreth said. "They're good at deceiving parents when they want to—that's kind of their job."

CASINO

From Page 1

in a phone interview.

McPhetres' current issues classes have been involved in surveys and studies of the hottest issues in the community, including the reunification of the CNMI and Guam, the impact of the federal minimum wage increases on CNMI people's living conditions, primary causes of domestic violence, addiction to poker gambling, and impact of stray animals.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Torres said they would like the survey to use the Commonwealth Election Commission's roster of registered voters, and request as "observers" personnel from the Office of the Public Auditor and the Office of the Attorney General to make the process "more credible."

The Senate is looking at having at least three polling centers to cover the central, northern, and southern areas of Saipan.

If the House passes SB 17-90, which calls for a special election to ask voters on their views about Saipan casino legalization, then there won't be a need to tap NMC students to do a survey on the same issue, Torres said.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said SB 17-90 does not identify a source of funding for the special election. He said a regular election costs $65,000 to $80,000, although the special election that the Senate envisions won't be as costly.

The House is expected to hold a session this week, but there's no telling whether SB 17-90 will be on the calendar.

This comes at a time when the Fitial administration is still reviewing a local bill that the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed, seeking to legalize casinos on Saipan.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said they have 40 days to act on the bill. The delegation transmitted the local casino bill to the governor on Aug. 29.

But even before the governor could act on the local bill, the House leadership is already working on another House casino bill that will require Senate action.

A House casino bill was dead on arrival at the Senate last year, with senators saying the decision to legalize casino gambling on Saipan should rest with voters. Since then, the Saipan delegation worked on and passed a local bill to legalize gambling on Saipan, but the Senate said such local bill is "unconstitutional."

The Senate is still poised to bring the matter to court, but is giving the House time to act on SB 17-90.

Lawmakers supporting a Saipan casino legislation said this is one industry that can help sustain the local economy at this time of partial payless paydays, work hour cuts and joblessness.

Unlike Saipan, Tinian and Rota voters have long voted to allow casinos on their islands.

‘No immediate plans yet to replace Malae at CUC’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There are no immediate plans yet to replace Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Malae, according to CUC legal counsel Deborah Fisher.

Fisher, in her report to the U.S. District Court for the NMI, said that part of the reason is because Malae’s intent to run for governor of American Samoa in 2012 is a new development; another is that he remains in place at CUC for months to come.

Over the next six months, Fisher said, Malae plans to continue to build a solid leadership component at CUC, not only for the sake of continuity but also to provide flexibility for any future replacement.

CUC understands that Malae’s plan to leave is of paramount importance, Fisher said, and it intends to discuss its plan with the U.S. Environmental

Malae

Protection Agency as they are formulated.

EPA has encouraged Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and CUC to immediately begin searching for Malae’s replacement to avoid any gap in leadership at this critical time for the utilities agency.

In a report recently filed in the district court, EPA legal counsel Bradley R. O’Brien had said that Malae’s announcement about his plan to run for governor of American Samoa in 2012 means he will be leaving CUC in early 2012. O’Brien said they encourage CUC and Fitial to begin as quickly as possible the process of soliciting, interviewing, and selecting a qualified replacement.

O’Brien said the executive director position is very important as the official is responsible for all operations at CUC, including its compliance with the two stipulated orders.

In CUC’s reply, Fisher noted that any departure is six months away, and Malae remains fully committed to CUC and the CNMI at present. Fisher said Malae has yet to turn in a resignation letter or application for a leave of absence.

“He [Malae] will work with his management team to ensure a smooth transition,” the lawyer added.

‘4 in 10 youths take alcohol, pot

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About four in 10 youths on island are believed to be using alcohol or marijuana, according to an official of the Department of Public Health’s Community Guidance Center, citing data culled from the Public School System.

Speaking before Friday’s proclamation of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month at the Governor’s Office, CGC manager Reyna Saures said that a behavioral survey conducted two years ago showed that 38.8 percent of youth respondents took alcohol in the last 30 days, while 30 percent admitted to have used marijuana.

Saures said that majority of these alcohol and marijuana users are from public middle and high schools.

“I think these figures are too high. It is alarming to find out that 38.8 percent of youth who took the survey admitted taking this substance, which means almost four in every 10 youths are drinking alcohol in our community,” she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the results must serve as a wake-up call for parents, families, and the community to take immediate action.

“I don’t think any parent is willing to identify their children in one of those four [takers]… we need to do something for them,” she said.

Saures expressed hope that PSS’ new behavioral survey, the results of which are expected to be released within the year, will show better results.

Although Saures has been seeing a “decreasing” trend in youths involved in substance abuse, she said the decline is “very slight” and needs to be improved.

“Because this is so complex and multifaceted, we need to deal with the accessibility of the substances, the enforcement, education and awareness and most importantly, the community must come together because it’s everyone’s problem,” she said.

Saures said that addressing substance use disorder requires comprehensive environmental strategies and pro-active approaches.

September 2011 was endorsed Friday as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in the Commonwealth. This year’s theme is “Join the voices for recovery: now more than ever.”

The Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery Coalition, led by Clyde Norita, has prepared a series of activities for the monthlong occasion.

Saipan chamber polls members on Saipan casino, Article 12 abolition

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan Chamber of Commerce members are being polled on their views on legalizing casino gambling on Saipan and on the abolition of the CNMI Constitution’s land alienation restriction under Article 12.

Members are asked to turn in their responses by Wednesday morning, in time for the noontime general membership meeting that day.

The two questions, sent through an email link to members last week, are easily answerable by “yes” or “no.”

“Are you in favor of legalizing casino gambling on the island of Saipan, CNMI?” goes the first question.

The second question is, “Are you in favor of abolishing Article XII of the CNMI Constitution, allowing for the sale of privately owned property?”

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Chamber, said they reminded members again yesterday to turn in their responses to the survey.

The results of the survey will help the Chamber formulate its position statement on the controversial issue of casino gambling on Saipan, and the repeal of Article 12.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members.

As of Saturday, only about 25 percent of members have turned in their responses.

DOJ awards GovGuam $218,608

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo recently announced that the U.S. Department of Justice has awarded $218,608 in federal financial assistance the Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans and the Guam Department of Youth Affairs.

A total of $166,108 was awarded to the Bureau of Statistics and Plans through the Coverdell Forensic Science Improvements Grants Program for fiscal year 2011. These funds were awarded by the National Institute of Justice, and will help the bureau improve its quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services, and eliminate backlogs in the analysis of forensic evidence.

Also, $40,000 was awarded to DYA through the Formula Grants Program, which supports state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements. This Title II Formula Grant will help DYA improve the following program areas in its juvenile justice system: aftercare and re-entry; compliance monitoring; disproportionate minority contact; planning and administration; and the state advisory group.

Another $12,500 was awarded to DYA through the Title V Community Prevention Grants Program, which aims to reduce risks and enhance protective factors to prevent at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice systems and to intervene with first-time and non-serious offenders to keep them out of the juvenile justice system. This grant will help fund community programs that reduce delinquency, promote youth development, strengthen family units, and foster healthy and nurturing environments. ***(PR)***

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IT&E
Life in Motion

Over $10K spent for student exchange programs in FY2011

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For fiscal year 2011, the Saipan Mayor's Office incurred a total of $10,790.73 in expenses for its student cultural exchange program as of Aug. 22.

"This amount does not include the overtime wages and fuel costs (pending breakdown invoice from PSS) and manpower hours from Mayor's Office staff," the office stated in a report submitted to the Legislature.

Of the total amount, about 45 percent or $4,840.50 was spent for hotel accommodations while 41 percent was used for food and water. The remaining amount was used for tent and vehicle rentals as well as gifts for the students.

For over 30 years, the Saipan Mayor's Office has promoted friendship, respect, peace, and mutual understanding between Saipan and other countries like Japan and Korea through its student cultural exchange program and sister city relationship, even partnering with other organizations to coordinate the students' visit.

These exchange programs and sister city agreements include the KSKK or the International Youth Association of Japan, the Sanpo-en Student Cultural Exchange Group, Itoda Group, P,Art Academy, Saipan Junior Chamber, and the Saipan Business Language Institute.

The Sanpo-en Student Cultural Exchange Group is the longest running exchange group, having been around for over 30 years. The group, founded by High Priest Kansho Kayaki and coordinated by his brother Susumu Kayaki, is composed of about 25 to 50 students aged 11 to 17 per visit.

Each year, students and chaperones of the Sanpo-en group launch hundreds of lanterns to sea at one of Saipan's beaches to remember those who perished during World War II.

Participants of the various student cultural exchange programs go sightseeing during their stay, visiting popular historic and tourist sites such as the Banzai Cliff, Last Command Post, Suicide Cliff, Mt. Tapochao, the Old Japanese Jail, American Memorial Park, and Mañagaha Island.

Some of these students are also accommodated by host families while on island to learn more about the local culture.

"The Student Cultural Exchange Program under the Office of the Mayor of Saipan is beneficial to everyone in our community and economy. With the growing number of exchange groups coming to our islands, it proves to be a successful program that should be supported more by our local government," the report states.

Three more student cultural exchange groups from Japan are expected to arrive in November and December, the report added.

FOR LEGISLATURE TO MOVE FORWARD:

BOE provides 'starting points' for selection of teachers' rep

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A list of starting points on how to select the next public school teachers' representative to the Board of Education is now with the Legislature so it could begin drafting a bill that will finally fill the post, now vacant for three years.

The board's committee on legislative initiatives and appointments, chaired by Herman T. Guerrero, wrote Senate President Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Speaker Eli D. Cabrera (R-Saipan), urging both chambers to address the important vacancy by crafting a measure that will identify the process of selecting a teachers' representative.

Since the expiration of Ambrose Bennett's term in January 2008, no one has succeeded him due to constitutionality issues raised in the selection process.

Guerrero said the board has made numerous attempts in the last three years to engage lawmakers in the active role of formulating policy so that a teacher can be placed on the position, to no avail.

In a three-page letter to the Legislature, Guerrero outlined recommendations that may help the lawmakers set the policy for selecting a candidate. Among them is the teacher organization election, the automatic appointment of the president of the teacher organization, and a general election among all teachers.

Guerrero, however, highlighted the importance for any bill to identify the authorized groups or individuals that will be involved in the election as well as its authorized coordinators.

The appointee to the position could also be the CNMI Teacher of the Year winner, said Guerrero, as the winner has already gone through a rigorous selection process not only within PSS but also among community members.

Guerrero said all TOY candidates fill out the national Teacher of the Year application, listing their accomplishments, educational backgrounds, and other information. A panel consisting of community members chooses the CNMI TOY.

Another option, according to the committee, is for the selection to come from the 20 Teachers of the Year of PSS.

Guerrero said the Legislature could also use the council of teachers, or PTSAs, to select the teachers' representative to BOE.

He said the legislation must also clarify the length of the appointment, rotation of representative, and alternate representative.

"Although the board is precluded from making a definitive recommendation I hope that the ideas presented will give you that starting point for your discussion and we look forward to a speedy resolution to the task before you," Guerrero said.

The process for establishing a selection process for the teachers' representative became the Legislature's responsibility since the amendment of Article XV Section 1 of the Constitution in 2009.

Aging Office employees, trainees mark Labor Day with lunch picnic

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Aging Office employees and Title V trainees celebrate the long Labor Day weekend with a picnic at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan on Sunday.

Employees of the Aging Office and trainees under the Senior Community Employment Service Program or the Title V Program took time off work and celebrated the Labor Day weekend with lots of food and island music on Sunday.

Over 20 employees and trainees, along with their families and friends, feasted on chicken *kelaguen*, fresh tuna sashimi, grilled seafood and meat, pancit, cucumber coco, and *titiyas* as local music blasted on speakers at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

With the long weekend due to the Labor Day commemoration yesterday, Aging director Rose Mondala said they thought of organizing a lunch get-together for all employees and trainees.

Instead of holding it on Labor Day, Mondala said they decided to hold it on Sunday so they could rest before they go back to work today.

According to Mondala, it was a potluck lunch as each of them contributed to the food and drinks.

"We want to do this at least twice a year, on Labor Day weekend and on Thanksgiving," said the director.

Mondala recounted that they used to have a bigger celebration of the holiday during the term of former governor Juan N. Babauta.

"But the government doesn't have money, so we just try to celebrate it any way we can by ourselves," added Mondala.

Fugitive Ngiraibuuch arrested

Ngiraibuuch

Police arrested yesterday afternoon in Chalan Kanoa Jack Ngiraibuuch, a fugitive hunted for burglary and theft charges.

Sources at the Department of Public Safety disclosed that police served the arrest warrant on the 35-year-old Ngiraibuuch at his residence.

He was taken to the Department of Corrections.

On Friday, DPS released a report asking for the public's assistance in locating the fugitive.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said that last Wednesday, Aug. 31, Superior Court associate judge Perry Inos issued an arrest warrant for Ngiraibuuch on charges of burglary and theft.

Tarkong said that DPS sought the public's assistance after failing to find the suspect at his residence.

Tarkong advised the public not to attempt to apprehend Ngiraibuuch and instead report his location.

DPS did not provide details about the burglary and theft case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Big Boyz recalls zoning application

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Big Boy Marine Sports withdrew its application for a conditional use permit with the Zoning Board.

Big Boy Marine Sports consultant John Reyes, who was authorized by company president Masanari Yasuda through a special power of attorney, informed the board about its decision in a letter addressed to acting administrator Therese Ogumoro last Sept. 1.

Reyes noted that their decision is based on the board's Aug. 31 meeting "in which we felt that there are some information lacking for the Zoning Board to make a decision."

Big Boy Marine Sports requested to establish a commercial garage to provide vehicle repair and custom painting services to the general public on Lot 409-1-$1 along Msgr. Guerrero Road in As Terlaje.

During the board's meeting last Sept. 1, chair Diego Blanco confirmed the applicant's application withdrawal.

"Should we decide in the future to reapply for [conditional use permit], a new application will be submitted," Reyes added.

Quichocho, landowner settle investor's lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The counsel for attorney Ramon K. Quichocho and landowner Joaquin Q. Atalig have settled the lawsuit filed by investor Sin Ho Nam, who obtained Thursday a favorable ruling from the federal court.

Attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for Quichocho and Atalig, told *Saipan Tribune* that the case was settled on Friday by District Court Judge Alex Munson, who is on island.

"The decision actually did not make much of a difference," said Dotts, referring to a 55-page opinion and order issued by U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett.

When asked for comment about Bennett's ruling, Dotts said that part of the decision favored Nam and part favored Quichocho.

Dotts did not discuss the terms of the settlement.

Attorney Colin Thompson, counsel for Nam, did not immediately respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comment about the settlement.

Nam had sued Quichocho and Atalig for breaching a land lease agreement when they terminated a 55-year lease, less than two years later despite having already paid the full lease amount of $218,000.

Bennett found Quichocho and Atalig liable to Nam for breach of contract.

Bennett said that Nam's remedies or question of damages and the entirety of his claim for breach of fiduciary duty against Quichocho will proceed to trial.

On the breach claim, the judge said the requirement to show that Nam has stopped paying rent to demonstrate abandonment is missing, since it is undisputed that Nam prepaid the rent for the entirety of the 55-year lease term.

The judge noted that Quichocho and Atalig showed no proof demonstrating that Nam had "vacated" the leased property or that he had no intention of returning.

Indeed, Bennett said, the defendants' utter lack of support for their "abandonment" claim suggests that this ground for asserting that Nam had defaulted under the ground lease and that the lease was, therefore, subject to termination, was in bad faith.

Bennett said the defendants' assertion that Nam defaulted by failing to obtain fire insurance is equally insufficient.

USCIS exec to discuss CW regulations at Chamber meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership luncheon meeting tomorrow, Sept. 7, 2011, will feature David Gulick, the, district director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Honolulu District 26.

Pierce

Richard Pierce, the Chamber's executive director, said that this will be Gulick's first appearance in Saipan within hours of printing of the long awaited CW-1 regulations governing foreign workers in the Commonwealth.

Friend L. Walker, federal security director for Saipan International Airport and Rota International Airport, will also speak about a new initiative within TSA called Risk Based Security.

The Chamber's membership meeting will be held at the Sandcastle ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Luncheon will begin at 11:30am, with the general membership meeting agenda commencing at 12pm. Luncheon is $15 for SCC members, while guest and non-member charges are $20.

The meeting agenda will include a report on the SCC conducted poll on casino gaming in Saipan and the often debated abolition of Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution.

Non-SCC members are highly encouraged to attend and participate in the Chamber sponsored monthly luncheons. SCC allows those wishing to attend and participate not only as a way to encourage Chamber membership, but also to keep the entire business community aware of challenges and changes in the rapidly changing economic environment in the Commonwealth.

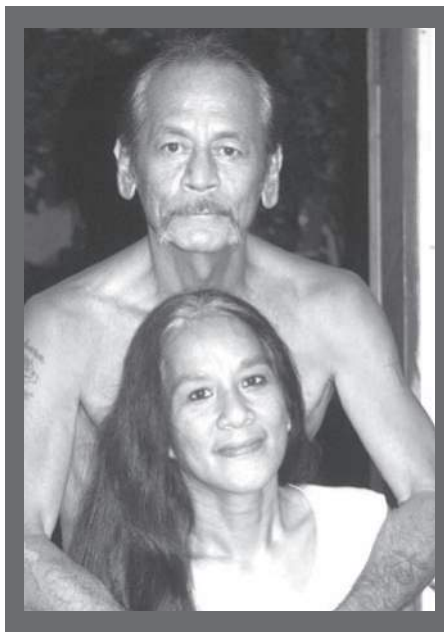
The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, funded in 1959, incorporated in 1976 and comprised of approximately 150 businesses, is the largest private business organization in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Chamber works to promote and protect business, economic and civic interests, and the general health and welfare of the CNMI. ***(SCC)***

Farmers' signup for transport cost reimbursement ends Sept. 9

The deadline to apply for the 2011 Reimbursement of Transportation Costs Program is this Friday, Sept. 9, 2011. Authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill, the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers provides payments intended to offset a portion of the costs of transporting agricultural inputs and products over long distances. The program assists farmers and ranchers in Hawaii, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau.

RTCP benefits are calculated based on the amount of costs incurred by the producer for transportation of the agricultural commodity or inputs during a fiscal year, subject to an $8,000 per producer cap per fiscal year. Applicants must file their RTCP application for benefits with their local Farm Service Agency county office no later than Sept. 9, 2011. Applicants will have until Nov. 4, 2011, to provide supporting documentation of actual costs of transporting agricultural inputs and commodities in fiscal year 2011 to the FSA county office.

For more information on the new RTCP program, farmers and ranchers in the eligible areas can visit their local FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport. ***(USDA)***



31ST ANNIVERSARY

Happy 31st anniversary greetings go out to our parents, Raymond and Barbara Tudela today, Sept. 6! We love you both so much and hope you enjoy your special day! Greetings come from Tiffany and AJ, Christina, Annessa, Amber, and JR and Rose.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Guam leads gold sponsors for Make A Wish Foundation gala

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam is once again leading the gold sponsors for the Make A Wish Foundation's annual Black Tie & Tennies Gala on Oct. 8, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Bank of Guam has provided gold sponsorship annually for Make A Wish Foundation's Gala fundraising effort, and this year, Guam's most talented musicians present "Motown Magic"—a special musical performance with hit songs from America's Motown greats.

"Bank of Guam's long-time association with Make A Wish Foundation is evidenced through our consistent sponsorship and our board presence. Make A Wish provides much joy to our local children through their wish program, and we commend them for their heartful service," said Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president, chief executive officer, and board chair.

The Make A Wish Foundation of Guam grants the wishes of children from Guam and the Northern Marianas with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

Bank of Guam is Guam's largest locally-owned bank. Recently reorganized to a bank holding company, Bank of Guam reports assets of over $1billion, with 24 branches and over 80 ATMs throughout Micronesia and San Francisco. ***(BoG)***

BANK OF GUAM

From left, Mike Naholowaa, Bank of Guam vice president and Make A Wish Foundation board vice chairman; Joyce Q. Crisostomo, Make A Wish Foundation board chairman; Albert Wu, Make A Wish Foundation board member; Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president, board chair and chief executive officer; and Jackie A. Marati, Bank of Guam senior vice president and former Make A Wish Foundation board member.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment to the
Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone)
For X's Corporation

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Mr. Xiong Hui is requesting to rezone lot E.A. 883-1 from "Rural" to "Industrial", for the storage of construction materials and equipments and to operate a vehicle repair shop. This area is located at the former site of Black Micro Corporation in Kannat Tabla, adjacent to the CMS Quarry.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, October 6, 2011
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office conference room, 2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, October 5, 2011. Please send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. BOX 506296, SAIPAN, MP 95950
TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2011 Fourth General Membership Meeting on Friday, September 9, 2011 at the Giovanni's, Hyatt at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Roll Call
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Review and adoption of July 07, 2011 Minutes
IV. Reports
- Chairman
- OVR Director
- CLI Director

V. Old Business
- CLI Visit & Tour
- NDEAM

VI. New Business
- Election of Officers

VII. Announcements
VIII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
PO Box 506296 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2011 Fourth General Membership on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at the Azucena II, Fiesta Resort at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Presentation by Excelsior Advantage, Inc.
IV. Review and adoption of Agenda
V. Review and adoption of the FY'11 3rd Meeting Minutes (07/06/11)
VI. Reports
a. OVR Director
b. SRC Chairman
c. Sub-Committees
VII. Old Business
- 2011 NDEAM

VIII. New Business
- Election of Officers

IX. Consumer Forum
X. Announcements
XI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Jesus M. Elameto
CHAIRMAN

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

'Freedom Walk' marks 10th year of 9/11

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The community is invited to take part in the "Freedom Walk" from Kristo Rai Church to American Memorial Park on Sept. 11 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Organized by the National Disaster Preparedness and the 10th year September 11th Commemoration Committee, the walk will start at 6pm. Assembly time is at 5pm at Kristo Rai Church.

Ivan Muna Igitol, medical supply specialist/all hazards responder of the Department of Public Health Commonwealth Health Center, said the event aims to honor and support all the uniformed personnel that proudly serve the nation and to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in Sept. 11, 2001.

This year marks the 10th year of the Sept. 11 attacks, which involved a series of four coordinated suicide attacks by the al-Qaida, the Islamic militant group founded by Osama bin Laden.

Al-Qaida terrorists hijacked four passenger jets and crashed them into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and a field in Pennsylvania, which was originally aimed at Washington, D.C.

Thousands of people, mostly civilians, died in the deadly attacks, prompting the United States to launch its war against terrorism.

"We invite you to join us renew our commitment to freedom and the values of our country," said Igitol. "We are inviting everyone to join us by walking together on this day."

A brief ceremony will be held after the walk.

25 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fr. Isaac "Ike" Ayuyu, standing, welcomes dignitaries led by acting governor Eloy S. Inos to the celebration of his 25th year as a Catholic priest, at the Pacific Islands Club on Saturday. From left are Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), her 8-year-old granddaughter Xiomara T. Ayuyu, Inos, Ayuyu, House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota).

NEWS BRIEFS

Eat Out For the Environment on Friday, Sept. 9

To help preserve our precious natural resources, residents of Saipan are encouraged to eat out on Friday, September 9, 2011 at select restaurants who have agreed to donate a portion of their revenue from that day to the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance. In this first ever "Eat Out for the Environment" event, participating restaurants include Aoi (at the Saipan Grand Hotel), Chambre Restaurant (at the Fiesta Resort), Shirley's Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, Shenanigan's and Naked Fish.

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance is a community-based, nonprofit organization that was formed by a group of people whose dedication and compassion for the environment felt the need to promote and advocate for the protection and restoration of our natural resources in the Commonwealth. Some of the projects that MINA has been involved in include the Marine Debris Program, the Environmental Teach Camp, Obyan Revegetation Project, the Tasi Watch Program, the No-Need Bag Campaign, and other projects. ***(MINA)***

August meeting of the Autism Society

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011, at 10am at NMPASI. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism-related spectrum disorders or other disabilities are invited to attend. For additional information, call 235-7274 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

OIA supports USVI Bureau of Internal Revenue

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs issued a $1.125 million grant to the U.S. Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue to bolster existing efforts in administering and enforcing internal revenue tax laws. Funds will go toward improving the BIR's capacity to purchase new technical equipment, hire new consultants and increase additional senior management staff.

"The new tools purchased with this funding should increase efficiency, provide greater transparency, and reduce fraud," said Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta. "Governor deJongh and I have been working closely to address many issues which face the USVI and I am pleased to be able to support this effort which strengthens and supplements the BIR's efforts to improve the delivery of services while ensuring tax responsibilities are met and done so equitably." ***(DOI)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

Sept. 6, from 9 am to 3:30pm and 5:45pm to 9:30pm

Sept. 7-8, from 10am to 9:30pm

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Sept. 6 and 7, from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The general public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(USN)***

TES sets opening day schedule

Tanapag Elementary School has published its schedule for the start of classes today, Sept. 6. TES said school bus pickup begins at 6:45am, gates open at 7am (no supervision before 7pm), and breakfast starts at 7:30am.

Classes begin at 8am and end at 3pm with parents and guardians required to pick up children no later than 3:15pm.

Kindergarten is a full day session from 8am to 9pm. TES will also have a Back-to School Night on the evening of Sept. 6 at 5:30pm at the campus cafeteria.

For more information, contact the TES main office at 664-3425/26/27 or direct at 237-3161. ***(PR)***

Veteran outreach in September

This is to let all veterans and all concerned know that Tina San Agustin, Department of Veterans Affairs legal administrative specialist from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be on Saipan on Sept. 28-29, 2011 for a veterans outreach on veterans federal benefits. She will be also entertaining questions and assisting with claims. The outreach will be held at the Military & Veterans Affairs Office on Capital Hill, Bldg. No. 1364, Saipan. If you wish to make an appointment or for further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military & Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 6, 2000

CNMI to push for changes in MOU with feds

The CNMI government expects to continue its partnership agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor's Hour and Wage division, but it will press for changes to some of the terms, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares and Herbert Soll flew last Sunday to San Francisco to negotiate with federal labor officials on possible renewal of a memorandum of understanding in regards to handling labor cases in the Commonwealth. "The MOU will be renewed. . . We have to amend some of the sections there," the governor told reporters yesterday when asked if he had any instruction to the two Cabinet officials.

New elementary school opens smoothly

Close to 800 Kagman Elementary School students showed up yesterday to attend their classes at the CNMI's newest public campus, adding two to three more students to every class roster than originally expected. Acting principal Frances Taimanao had anticipated 750 students to grace the school opening based on official registration figures. "But we have accommodated the additional students and we are still on the lookout for several more who are registered but have not yet showed up. We will still accept them," said Taimanao. The school administration braved a crowd of excited school children and parents yesterday who flocked the Building A front office inquiring about room assignments.

Sept. 6, 2001

OSHA: Factories complying with federal safety standards

The US Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration yesterday said the inspections conducted on 22 garment factories on Saipan revealed that these firms comply with the existing federal safety standards for workers. The findings were echoed by Frank Strasheim, OSHA's Region IX director, who arrived on the island this week as part of the agency's thrust in enforcing safe working standards in different industries. "We found virtually no problems," said Strasheim. "Things have improved tremendously." Tan Holdings Corporation, which operates one of the biggest apparel factories on Saipan, was commended by the OSHA official. "I'm very impressed," Strasheim said. "Tan Holdings is doing quite well."

Extortion raps pressed vs 3 CUC employees

Three employees of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation were charged with multiple criminal offenses for allegedly extorting on customers while on official duty. Charges were pressed against Adriano S. Teregeyo, 35, Dennis John Ngeskebi, 32, and Ray Taisacan Tudela, 36. The charges include three counts of theft by deception and two other counts of theft by extortion. Based on the information filed with the Superior Court by Assistant Attorney General Marvin J. Williams, the first count of theft by deception was slapped against the three CUC employees for "requesting and receiving $150 [from Prince Hotel] for a water meter installation, knowing the meter was CUC property."

Sept. 6, 2002

Airport facility gets $1M more

The Federal Aviation Administration released another $1 million to the Commonwealth Ports Authority as additional funding assistance for the completion of its Aircraft Rescue Firefighting division. According to CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas, the new round of funding assistance brought FAA's total financial aid for the ARFF training facility to $5 million. The ARFF training facility, geared to be the aviation and rescue training facility in the Pacific Region, is anticipated to start construction anytime soon, Salas added.

NMI wows 'em in Nagoya

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently sent a delegation to Nagoya, Japan, to participate in the Nagoya Castle Summer Festival -"Marianas NO YUUBE" and the "Wonderful Saipan Exhibition. While in Nagoya, MVA managing director Jonas Ogren made a courtesy visit to Nagoya Deputy Mayor Katsuhisa Suzuki. In addition to the media exposure provided by the events, Ogren and Miss CNMI International, Christine Cunanan were interviewed on live radio broadcasts and the Nagoya Times newspaper. The publicity exposure value provided by participating in the Nagoya Castle Summer Festival and the Wonderful Saipan Exhibition was more than $80,000.00.

Island Snapshots

JUDICIAL INVESTITURE

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Newly sworn-in U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Ramona V. Manglona, fifth from right, is flanked by her family and federal court judges led by U.S. District Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit judge Mary M. Schroeder, third from right, during Manglona's investiture ceremony at the U.S. District Court in Garapan on Aug. 27.

U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Ramona V. Manglona, center, speaks with U.S. Attorney for Guam and the CNMI Alicia Limtiaco.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, foreground, poses with U.S. District Court of Guam chief judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Ramona V. Manglona, and U.S. District Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit judge Mary M. Schroeder.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, right (his back to the camera), congratulates U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Ramona V. Manglona as U.S. District Court for Central California senior judge Consuelo B. Marshall, left, and U.S. District Court of Guam chief judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood look on.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, U.S. District Court for Central California senior judge Consuelo B. Marshall, U.S. District Court of Guam chief judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Ramona V. Manglona, .S. District Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit judge Mary M. Schroeder, and U.S. District Court for the NMI judge Alex R. Munson.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

RECOVERY MONTH

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos and Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez share a light moment during a proclamation ceremony Friday at the governor's conference room. Inos endorsed September 2011 as the National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in the Commonwealth. With the theme "Join the voices for recovery: now more than ever," the administration targets to lead individuals suffering from substance use disorders to the path of recovery.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

HEALTH SCREENING

Community members, mostly women, line up for the free health screenings conducted by the Commonwealth Cancer Association and the Department of Public Health at the Sabalu market in Susupe on Sept. 3.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Women avail of the free blood pressure checkup, one of the screenings offered by the volunteers of the Commonwealth Cancer Association and the Department of Public Health at the Sabalu market in Susupe last Saturday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Opinion

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Wanted: Patriotic CEOs to stop corporate moochers

By CHUCK COLLINS
INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES

Some of the biggest corporations in the U.S. are moochers.

They're like the guy who shows up at your Labor Day picnic empty-handed. He drinks all your beer, eats four helpings of barbecue and leaves a huge mess for everyone else to clean up. Then he asks you for 20 bucks in gas money to get home.

A troubling number of U.S. corporations behave as moocher guests at our national cafeteria. They help themselves to all the taxpayer-funded goods and services we create and pay for together –and leave patriotic small businesses and individual taxpayers with the bill.

According to a new report by the Institute for Policy Studies that I co-authored, 25 corporations among the top 100 firms paid their CEOs more in compensation than they paid in taxes. Twenty of them spent more on lobbying Congress than they paid in taxes.

Twenty of the 25 paid not one dime in federal taxes last year. Many use offshore tax havens to shift their profits overseas to avoid U.S. taxes. In fact, their hands are out, collecting millions in government subsidies.

This elite group of super-moochers includes Ford, eBay, Verizon, Boeing, Motorola, Honeywell, Dow Chemical, General Electric, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Prudential Financial, Capital One Financial and International Paper.

These companies utilize roads, ports, Internet broadband, weather services—our entire public infrastructure. They spin off products created from a foundation of Uncle Sam's investments, such as the Internet, drug research and innovation in aviation and science. They hire educated workers from our school systems—and complain when they don't have adequate skills.

When someone tries to steal their product or idea, they rush to the U.S. court system and law enforcement agencies for help and justice. They rest assured knowing their global assets are protected by the U.S. military and government agencies.

They claim to love America. They just don't want to pay for its upkeep. At the end of the cafeteria line, with their tray piled with food, they point to you and me and say, "They're picking up the tab."

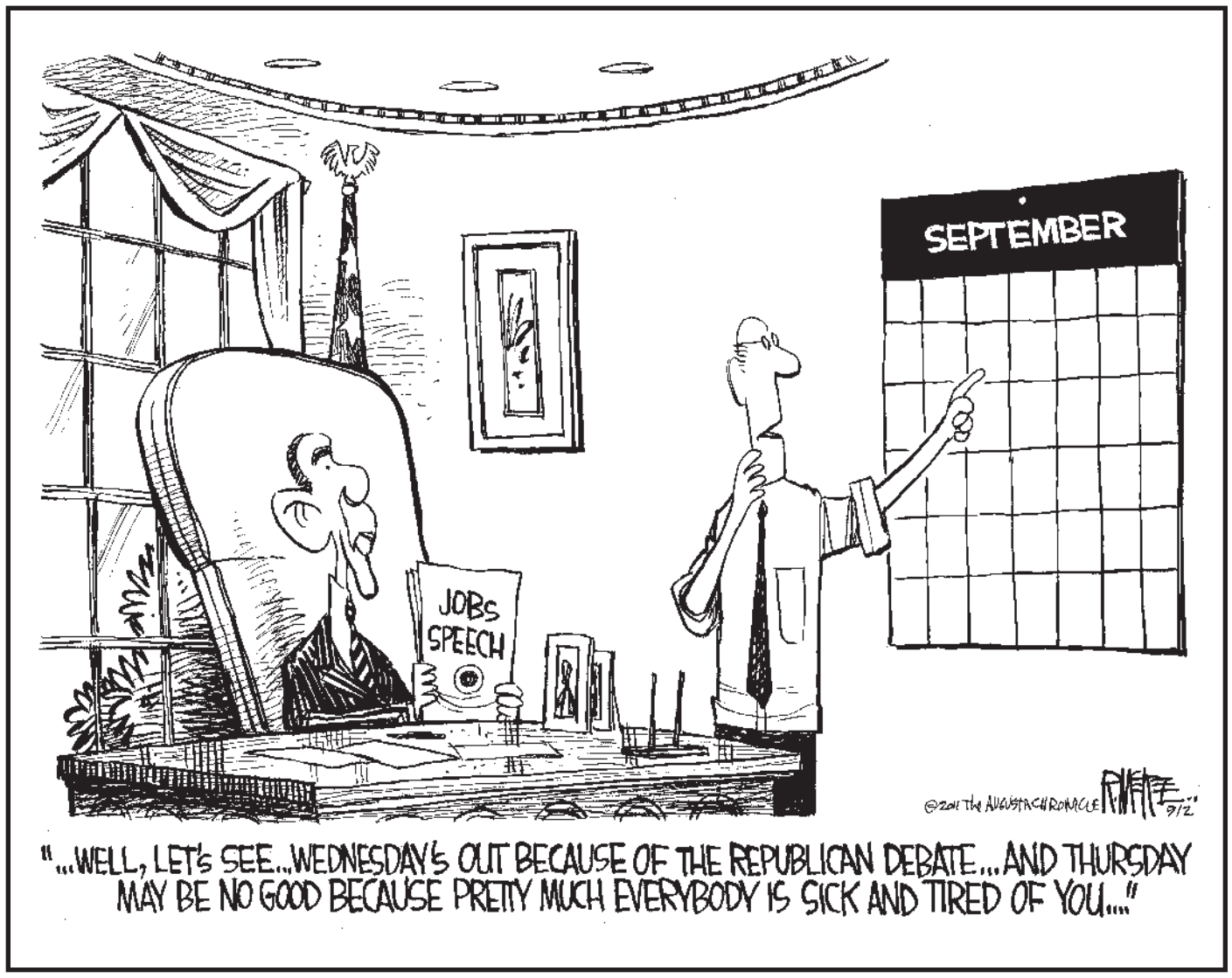
Think about it: Where would Honeywell be without government research and contracts? Where would Boeing be without the U.S. taxpayer, including a recent contract for $35 billion in new planes?

These companies imply they should be relieved from taxes since they are creating U.S. jobs. But as new studies show, many of these same global firms are shifting jobs overseas as fast as they can.

General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt advises President Barack Obama on how to create jobs in America. He was paid $15.3 million last year as his company paid no U.S. taxes and collected $3.3 billion in refunds. In the past three years, GE has closed more than a dozen U.S. factories and eliminated 19,000 American jobs. In the past decade, the percentage of GE's global workforce based in the U.S. has declined from 54 percent to 46 percent.

Many companies avoid disclosing the breakdown of their workforce between the United States and other countries. They don't want the public to know how aggressively they are outsourcing jobs. Once-patriotic U.S. firms now view the United

See WANTED on Next Page


SEPTEMBER
JOBS SPEECH
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"...WELL, LET'S SEE...WEDNESDAY'S OUT BECAUSE OF THE REPUBLICAN DEBATE...AND THURSDAY MAY BE NO GOOD BECAUSE PRETTY MUCH EVERYBODY IS SICK AND TIRED OF YOU..."

It's not easy being Greene

By ROBERT GREENE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

On or about Sept. 3, 1592, Robert Greene died from eating too many pickled herrings and drinking too much Rhine wine, or Rhenish, as the English called it in those days. I learned this from a poetry anthology—a gift from my mother—containing some of Greene's poems along with a brief biography that relates how he spent his final days in agony, finishing his best-known work on his deathbed.

The poet's final offering, "Greene's Groatsworth of Wit, Bought With a Million of Repentance," is less known for any repentance than it is for Greene's envious attack on a nobody, a non-university-trained actor who was getting some notice on the London theater scene. Much of the attention Greene felt was his due as an educated writer was instead going to this William Shakespeare person, who had the nerve to try his own hand at writing some of the plays in which he performed. Greene called him an "upstart crow."

Not just for fun but as an annual examination of my own ego, envy, appetites, aspirations and mortality, I have long observed each Sept. 3 with a snack of pickled herring and a glass of Rhenish. I figure it's my due. Not only do I share the man's name, we share a profession: writing. He became even more important to me when I started to think that I'd like to make my living as a writer. Not as a playwright, certainly, or as a poet, and certainly I'm not entertaining notions that I could become a Shakespeare, or even the equivalent of a 16th century Robert Greene. But maybe as a newspaper reporter. Or an editorial writer.

It's a great job, editorial writing. I tell people whom to vote for in judicial elections, criticize politicians, talk to people in the city and around the state, and try to make sense of it all. Mostly, though, I try to figure out and write about why more kids and young adults in California can't have the abundant life that I've had, with first-rate schools, cities that work, responsive and responsible governments. And about how it's our obligation to give them those blessings, however belatedly.

Those questions of opportunity, abundance and fulfillment have become more poignant and somewhat more urgent as my most-fortunate generation grows older and gets ready to leave a society, built largely by our parents, to the next class of Californians.

Over this past year, though, my namesake's deathbed complaints became many times more urgent than they ever seemed before. I ate my 2010 pickled herring just days before undergoing my first chemotherapy treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. When that four-month course of treatments failed, I spent the first five months of 2011 shuttling between my home desk, where I hammered out the occasional editorial, and a hospital bed, finally spending a solid month lying down, miles from my home, with various tubes coming out of me.

I can compare for you the food at four different hospitals, and can tell you how guilty and grateful one can feel as his friends and colleagues do his work as well as their own. I can recite for you a list of celebrities who have died from my kind of cancer, with or without a stem-cell transplant of the type I underwent. And, on my glass-half-full days, I can give you a list of those who survived. I can tell you about how my doctor once put my odds at 50-50 but more recently at an optimistic 60-40. But I can't tell you how many annual pickled herring days I have left. Maybe just one. Maybe—and why not?—another 40.

In the twilight of his career, Shakespeare wrote what has become one of my favorite plays. "The Winter's Tale" is an elaborate story of love, jealousy, loss, forgiveness and bittersweet restoration. And something about a bear. One of the characters is Time itself, and in the midst of the play he simply declares the passage of 16 years, leaving the audience to wonder how it all went so fast. For no rational reason, I take comfort in the fact that after Time's announcement, there are still two acts to go. I loved the play long before I ever found out it was based, faithfully, on an earlier work called "Pandosto." By Robert Greene.

Centuries later, the story of Greene's unhappy end (and it turns out it may have been just a story concocted by his enemies) is more funny than it is sad, and I like that. He sure could write. But he was a cocky man, a jealous man, angry that he was not universally hailed as the best. He became better known as a character, in work by other authors such as James Joyce and Virginia Woolf, than for his own writing.

His bad example provides a warning against six of the seven deadly sins. But it also provides a sense of perspective. It helps me enjoy the otherwise humbling fact that not only am I no Shakespeare, I'm not even the best-known or most successful writer named Robert Greene. In addition to the original, there is the award-winning former columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*, Oprah Winfrey's favorite fitness guru, and the modern-day Machiavelli, hailed by rappers and film producers, who wrote tomes on power and seduction. I've gotten calls at my desk from hopeful readers thinking they'd reached one of those Robert Greenes. Sorry. I'm the mostly anonymous editorial writer.

Next spring though, if I'm still around—and I'm laying odds I will be—I will write you one heck of a judicial endorsement. Perhaps some upstart blogger will rewrite it into a masterpiece. For now, I'm eating some pickled herring and drinking some Rhenish. With friends. And fellow writers.

Robert Greene is a Los Angeles Times *editorial writer. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What we should have said

» About adjustment, removal, and summary removal for visa waiver and parole visitor

» Plus, another application deadline

We can't get it right

In our last column we discussed the special situation of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens who are entitled to have their green card applications processed even if they have overstayed their authorized entry; this includes both current residents of the CNMI, and those who enter under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, and those Chinese and Russian tourists who are paroled into the CNMI.

A day or so later, Maya was accompanying clients to a green card interview at the USCIS Saipan Application Support Center, when a visiting USCIS official—the same one who corrected an error we made regarding visa waivers in a column last year—said, "You and Bruce just can't get it right about the visa waiver program." She responded, "Nice to see you, too," and then asked what we got wrong this time.

Our error, it turns out, was to state that "U.S. immigration law allows lawfully admitted immediate relatives to process their green card application, and that applies to all immediate relatives of USCs, *except for those admitted under the Visa Waiver Program in effect throughout the rest of the U.S.*"

That was wrong, and doubly embarrassing because we had it right before. Although the Immigration and Nationality Act Section 245(c)(4) generally prohibits adjustment of status for people who enter pursuant to visa waivers, it contains an exception for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. As we said last November, quoting the same USCIS official:

Aliens admitted under the Visa Waiver Programs are eligible to adjust status to permanent residence pursuant to the authority in Section 245(c)(4) if they file for adjustment as an immediate relative. Furthermore an alien from China or Russia who is in Saipan under the parole authority would be eligible for adjustment as having been paroled and is not subject to the restriction in 245(c)(4).

We won't make that mistake again. But we should have said more about adjustment of status for U.S. citizens' immediate relatives who have been admitted under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, or who are Chinese or Russian citizens paroled into the CNMI under essentially the same terms. And we should have said more about the possibility of removal through action by the sister agencies of USCIS: Immigration & Customs Enforcement and Customs & Border Protection.

Overstaying immediate relatives, including visa waiver & parole visitors, are subject to removal

As we've said several times before, persons admitted to the CNMI pursuant to the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, and Chinese and Russian parolees, can apply to adjust their status to lawful permanent resident, or LPR, if they are immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, even if they overstay their authorized time in the CNMI. So can immediate relatives who had other forms of lawful admission to the CNMI, whether by the CNMI government or, after Nov. 28, 2009, by the U.S. government. We have had several immediate relatives—both spouses and children of USCs—adjust in this fashion, without problems.

So far, so good. But what happens when an overstaying LPR applicant is detained by ICE before USCIS adjudicates the application? And what happens to the overstayer if USCIS denies the application? According to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals case law, which is applicable in the CNMI, a lot depends on the kind of admission and the terms of admission, and whether the application is filed before or after the applicant becomes an overstayer.

Keep in mind that although we will keep the discussion simple, this is a developing area of law—the results may be different in other federal Courts of Appeal, and the U.S. Supreme Court has not yet ruled on any one of these types of cases. If you recognize yourself or your immediate relative in the discussion below, you should get legal advice now. (And remember: legal advice comes from attorneys. Don't listen to rumors. Friends don't let non-attorney friends give legal advice.)

If you are not a visa waiver/parole visitor and your application is denied

- **Are you still in lawful immigration status?** If you have applied for a green card and have been denied, there are several possible courses of action. You may be able to bring a motion for reconsideration, or an application for waiver of a ground of inadmissibility, or an appeal. If the denial was procedural, such as a failure to respond to a request for additional evidence, but too much time has passed, it may be more efficient simply to apply again, despite the expense of additional filing fees. We have done that for several victims of fake attorneys or "legal consultants," because of the difficulty of untangling what are usually multiple errors.
- **Are you already out of status?** You may be able to apply again, if you are not successful with any post-denial motion or application. Most lawfully admitted residents of the CNMI will be entitled to removal (deportation) proceedings, and the right to legal representation (but not to an attorney appointed by the government). If you are placed in removal proceedings, you may be able to renew your application to adjust status in front of the immigration judge.

Are you a visa waiver/parole visitor?

- **Look at your terms of admission.** CPB Form I-736, the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Information form, contains two conspicuous statements. First, the form states, "You may not apply for:…(2) adjustment of status to temporary or permanent resident…" Second, "**Waiver of Rights**: I hereby waive any rights to review or appeal a CBP Officer's determination as to my admissibility, or to contest, other than on the basis of an application for asylum, any action in removal proceedings."

The first statement is misleading with regard to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, who *can* adjust status and become LPRs while on visa waiver or parole. The second statement, which allows expedited removal—that is, removal without any deportation proceedings in front of an immigration judge—may be incorrect if the application to adjust status was filed before the individual became an overstayer. (It is also incorrect with regard to asylum, which pursuant to the Consolidated Natural Resources Act is not available to visitors to the CNMI until January 2015.) The I-736 is available online at http://forms.cbp.gov/pdf/cbp_form_i736.pdf.

- **You can file for adjustment of status either before or after becoming an overstayer.** Neither INA § 245(c) nor the applicable federal regulation, 8 CFR 245.1, limit the right of an immediate relative to file an application for adjustment of status, and neither limits the ability of USCIS to adjudicate the application. What happens if the application is denied, or if the applicant is detained by ICE prior to adjudication, depends a lot on when the application was filed.
- **If you applied to adjust status during your term of lawful admission**, then Ninth Circuit case law indicates that if your application is denied, you are entitled to removal proceedings, including a hearing before an immigration judge during which you can renew your application to adjust status. Note that if you are not detained by ICE but USCIS denies your application, USCIS will consider referring you to removal proceedings through a Notice to Appear, NTA.
- **If you applied to adjust status after your term of lawful admission expired**, then the case law is less favorable. USCIS will not issue an NTA if it denies your application. Instead, you will be referred for removal under the terms and conditions of the visa waiver program, and you will not be entitled to renew the application to adjust status in removal proceedings. That is, your eligibility to adjust status will not be a defense to deportation.
- **If you are detained by ICE prior to adjudication of your application to adjust status**, the nature of your admission, and the filing date of your application, will be critical. If you were lawfully admitted to the CNMI but not as a visa waiver or parole visitor, you will likely be given an NTA, and during the removal proceedings you can use your eligibility to adjust status as a defense to removal. If you are a visa waiver or parole visitor who has an application to adjust status pending, whether you filed before or after the last day of your period of admission will be very important.
- **If you are detained by ICE before filing your application to adjust status**, the chances are that you will be leaving the U.S. very quickly via summary removal proceedings, unless you are eligible for some extraordinary form of relief—or unless you are charged with a crime, in which case you may stay longer, but not necessarily in very pleasant accommodations.

Special deadline for some L-1 and EB-1C visa applicants: Nov. 27, 2011

In our last column we left out a very important filing deadline for some L-1A (nonimmigrant international manager or executive transferee), L-1B (special knowledge nonimmigrant employee transferee) or EB-3 (immigrant equivalent of L-1A) applicants. All three of these visas require that the employee must have worked in the same capacity for the foreign parent, subsidiary, affiliate or branch of the U.S. company to which the employee is being transferred, for at least one of the past three years. Employees who have only worked for a CNMI company, but in the same qualifying positions, have a limited opportunity to "transfer" into their own jobs, obtaining a nonimmigrant visa or immigrant visa (green card) in the process.

This is because all CNMI companies were considered "foreign" for immigration purposes prior to Nov. 28, 2009, and "U.S." thereafter. So, if the employee has worked for the requisite period of time, in the same capacity, and if after Nov. 28, 2009, the company still has a "foreign component"—foreign parent, subsidiary, affiliate or branch—then the employer should consider making the necessary application.

This is a one-time opportunity, and it will go away after Nov. 27, 2011. After that date, no CNMI-only employee will be able to include a full year out of the last three as working for the "foreign" CNMI company, and any application filed after Nov. 27 will be too late. Note that this deadline does not apply to L-1 or EB-3 applicants who still can show a full year's employment for the foreign component, out of the past three years; that is, the deadline will not affect people who actually do transfer from foreign to U.S. companies in the CNMI.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune *at editor@saipantribune.com.*

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

WANTED

From Page 10

States as a platform for shifting capital, jobs, and profits around the world to their narrow advantage.

Our country is part of a dynamic global economy—and there are many benefits to our communities as a result. We benefit from global trade in goods, food and services.

Unfortunately, some our biggest U.S. corporations use the global economy as a shield to avoid basic responsibilities. For example, some use subsidiaries in tax-haven countries like the Cayman Islands and pretend their profits are earned offshore and their losses in the United States. These 25 companies together have more than 556 subsidiaries in tax haven countries.

We need a few respected CEOs to step up and say, "There's something wrong when a CEO is paid more than the entire amount of taxes a billion-dollar company pays."

We could really use some patriotic CEOs who understand that to have first class infrastructure and education systems the businesses that benefit must pay their fair share. They can't complain about government waste and inefficiency—and shift their money offshore—leaving everyone else to pay.

An earlier generation of CEOs of these same companies would have been ashamed to personally be paid more than their company's entire U.S. tax bill. Today's CEOs get rewarded for dodging taxes and their national responsibility.

Chuck Collins is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies and co-author of The Moral Measure of the Economy. *Readers may write to him at IPS, 1112 16th Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20036; website: www.ips-dc.org.*

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

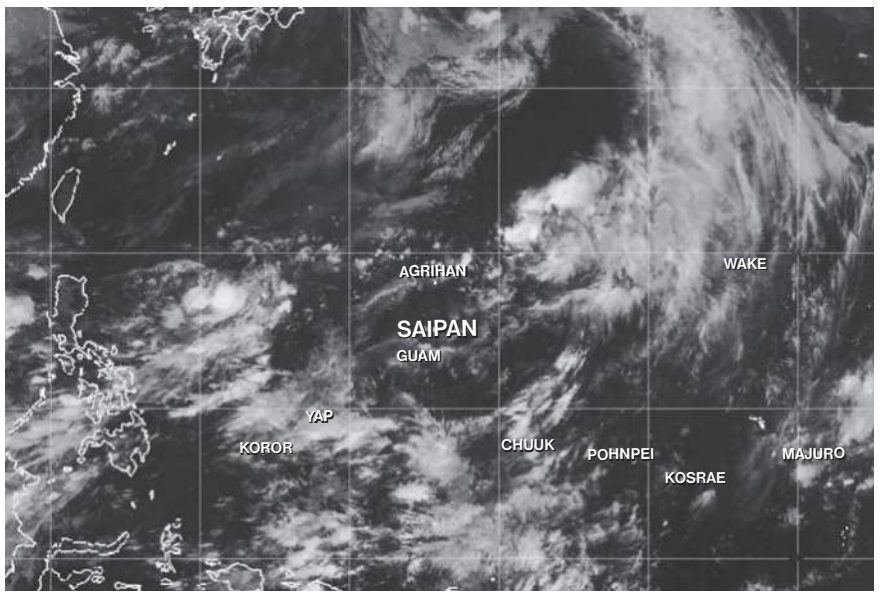
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼73
Kosrae	Rain	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲61	▼48
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼64
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲88	▼75
London	Rain	▲62	▼55
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲58	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲82	▼65
Osaka	Sunny	▲85	▼68
Paris	Windy	▲72	▼57
Pusan	Sunny	▲79	▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲89	▼66
Salem	Sunny	▲90	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲81	▼63
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲82	▼71
Washington, DC	Showers	▲81	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from a circulation centered at 20N130E to end west of the Northern Marianas at 19N143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of the circulation and well northwest of Koror or west of a line from 13N134E to 18N134E. Convergent southwest winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well south of the trough near Yap and just north of Koror or within 130 miles of a line from 11N133E to 8N143E. A surface trough stretches northeastward from 4N149E to 12N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near Chuuk or south of a line from 9N145E to 9N156E. Converging south and southwest winds are producing scattered showers and few thunderstorms over Minami Tori Shima or within 270 miles of a line from 21N154E to 23N159E. An upper-level low is centered near 3N173E. A trade-wind disturbance is coupling with upper-level divergence north of the circulation to cause scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near and east of Majuro or within 170 miles of a line from 7N173E to 10N177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:48 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
4:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:48 PM	12:24 AM
Wednesday	2:39 PM	1:21 AM
Thursday	3:26 PM	2:17 AM
Friday	4:09 PM	3:11 AM
Friday	4:49 PM	4:02 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 24, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5	C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)**			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5	C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 4, 7
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)				**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	1, 3, 4, 5, 7	5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				**OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN**			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
0Z119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am	5, via GUM
				PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z750/603	1:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
				C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Unemployed face tough competition: underemployed

WASHINGTON (AP)—The job market is even worse than the 9.1 percent unemployment rate suggests.

America's 14 million unemployed aren't competing just with each other. They must also contend with 8.8 million other people not counted as unemployed - part-timers who want full-time work.

When consumer demand picks up, companies will likely boost the hours of their part-timers before they add jobs, economists say. It means they have room to expand without hiring.

And the unemployed will face another source of competition once the economy improves: Roughly 2.6 million people who aren't counted as unemployed because they've stopped looking for work. Once they start looking again, they'll be classified as unemployed. And the unemployment rate could rise.

Intensified competition for jobs means unemployment could exceed its historic norm of 5 percent to 6 percent for several more years. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office expects the rate to exceed 8 percent until 2014. The White House predicts it will average 9 percent next year, when President Barack Obama runs for re-election.

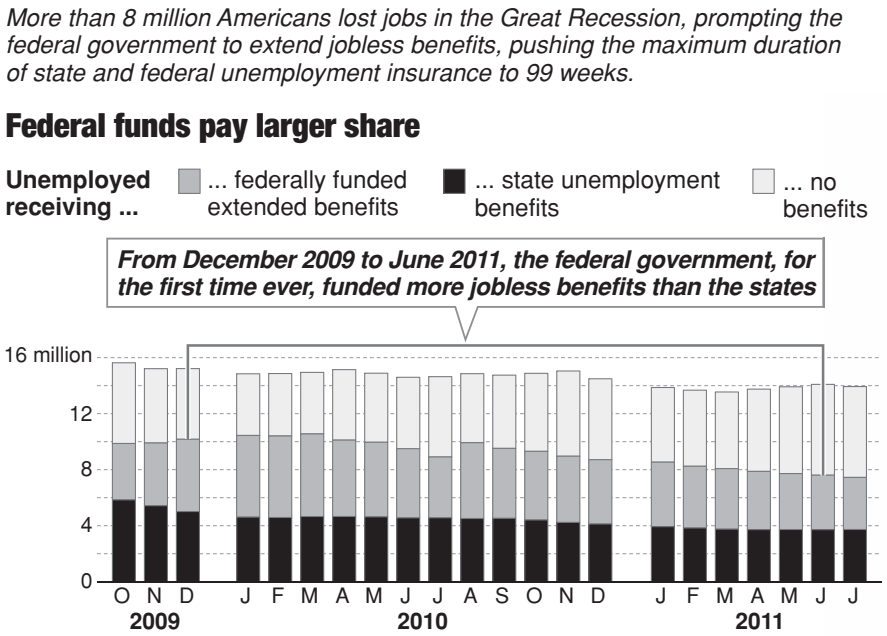
The jobs crisis has led Obama to schedule a major speech Thursday night to propose steps to stimulate hiring. Republican presidential candidates will likely confront the issue in a debate the night before.

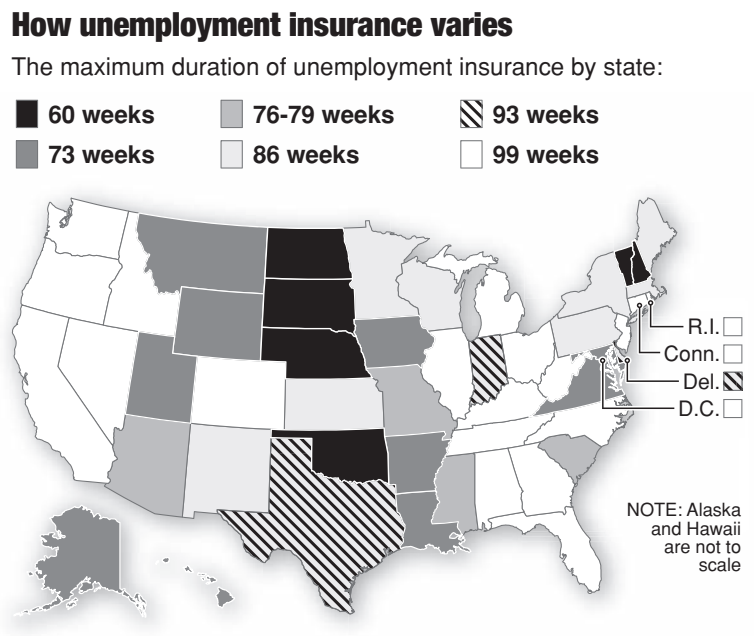
The back-to-back events will come days after the government said employers added zero net jobs in August. The monthly jobs report, arriving three days before Labor Day, was the weakest since September 2010.

Combined, the 14 million officially unemployed; the "underemployed" part-timers who want full-time work; and "discouraged" people who have stopped looking make up 16.2 percent of working-age Americans.

The Labor Department compiles the figure to assess how many people want full-time work and can't find it—a number the unemployment rate alone doesn't capture.

More than 8 million Americans lost jobs in the Great Recession, prompting the federal government to extend jobless benefits, pushing the maximum duration of state and federal unemployment insurance to 99 weeks.


Federal funds pay larger share
Unemployed receiving ...
... federally funded extended benefits
... state unemployment benefits
... no benefits
From December 2009 to June 2011, the federal government, for the first time ever, funded more jobless benefits than the states
16 million
12
8
4
0
O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J
2009
2010
2011



Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; Department of Labor data presented in monthly averages by Wayne Vroman, Urban Institute Graphic: Judy Treible, Robert Dorrell © 2011 MCT

AP

In this Sept. 2, 2011 photo, Ryan McGrath, 26, poses in his home in Michigan City, Ind. McGrath has been working part time designing web sites for small businesses but wants steadier full-time work.

In a healthy economy, this broader measure of unemployment stays below 10 percent. Since the Great Recession officially ended more than two years ago, the rate has been 15 percent or more.

The proportion of the work force made up of the frustrated part-timers has risen faster than unemployment has since the recession began in December 2007.

That's because many companies slashed workers' hours after the recession hit. If they restored all those lost hours to their existing staff, they'd add enough hours to equal about 950,000 full-time jobs, according to calculations by Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute.

That's without having to hire a single employee.

No one expects every company to delay hiring until every part-timer is working full time. But economists expect job growth to stay weak for two or three more years in part because of how many frustrated part-timers want to work full time.

And because employers are still reluctant to increase hours for part-timers, "hiring is really a long way off," says Christine Riordan, a policy analyst at the National Employment Law Project. In August, employees of private companies worked fewer hours than in July.

Some groups are disproportionately represented among the broader category of unemployment that includes underemployed and discouraged workers. More than 26 percent of African Americans, for example, and nearly 22 percent of Hispanics are in this category. The figure for whites is less than 15 percent. Women are more likely than men to be in this group.

Among the Americans frustrated with part-time work is Ryan McGrath, 26. In October, he returned from managing a hotel project in Uruguay. He's been unable to find full-time work. So he's been freelancing as a website designer for small businesses in the Chicago area.

Some weeks he's busy and making money. Other times he struggles. He's living at home, and sometimes he has to borrow $50 from his father to pay bills. He's applied for "a million jobs."

"You go to all these interviews for entry-level positions, and you lose out every time," he says.

Nationally, 4.5 unemployed people, on average, are competing for each job opening. In a healthy economy, the average is about two per opening.

Facing rejection, millions give up and stop looking for jobs.

Norman Spaulding, 54, quit his job as a truck driver two years ago because he needed work that would let him care for his disabled 13-year-old daughter.

But after repeated rejections, Spaulding concluded a few weeks ago that the cost of driving to visit potential employers wasn't worth the expense. He suspended his job hunt.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Utah ends 4-day workweek experiment

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Utah's experiment with a first-in-the-nation four-day workweek for state workers is over. Beginning Tuesday, they will be back on the job five days, but they won't be working a full week just yet. The Labor Day holiday will shorten the week to four days. Lawmakers scratched the experiment, saying it was not saving as much money as hoped and that residents were complaining about not having access to services on Fridays.

ConocoPhillips defends handling of China oil spill

SHANGHAI (AP)—ConocoPhillips is defending its handling of oil spills off China's eastern coast, denying allegations that it sought to deceive authorities by falsely claiming to have stopped and cleaned up the seeps. The spills began in June and last week led to an order to halt all production in the affected Penglai 19-3 oil field in Bohai Bay. They have prompted a chorus of criticism against ConocoPhillips in China's state-run media, along with calls from environmentalists for harsher penalties for damages.

Asian stocks down on dreary US jobs data

BANGKOK (AP)—Asian stock markets took a beating Monday after U.S. job creation ground to a halt in August, reviving fears of a recession in the world's largest economy. Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average was down 1.7 percent at 8,797.89 with sentiment also undermined by the persistent strength of the yen against the dollar, which hurts exporters. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 2.2 percent to 4,148.50 and South Korea's Kospi slid 3 percent to 1,811.44. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 2.2 percent to 19,768.09. Benchmarks in Singapore, Taiwan, the Philippines and mainland China were also down.

EU official says region will avoid recession

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The European Union will avoid slipping into recession and is doing all it can to tackle the region's debt problems, a top official said Monday.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, who is in Australia on his way to a meeting of South Pacific states, said the 27-nation EU and the euro common currency are resilient and the region will continue to grow, albeit modestly.

"We don't anticipate a recession in Europe," Barroso told reporters after a meeting with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard and senior ministers. "The latest forecast by the European Commission shows that there will be growth—modest growth, it's true."

"The European Union and euro are strong and resilient and we are doing all it takes from tackling the underlying budget problems to strengthening the governance of the euro zone, from tighter financial regulation to improving our overall competitiveness," he said.

Disagreements over Greece's massive budget deficits and how to make up for the funding shortfalls led international debt inspectors to suspend their review and leave Athens last week, as Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos warned an even deeper recession in his country will hurt its deficit-cutting efforts.

The unexpected departure on Friday of the debt inspectors - officials from the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund - marked yet another occasion of conflict between international institutions demanding greater reform efforts and a government and country that are reaching their limits.

But Barroso, who heads the EU's executive arm, said it would be premature to make an assessment now on the Greek government's latest efforts to tackle debt.

Greece's troubles are being worsened by a slowing global economy, with growth tapering off in major economies such as Germany, China and the United States.

World business leaders and finance experts gathered in Italy for the annual Ambrosetti Forum at the weekend offered a downbeat assessment of the global economy—with several predicting another recession due to a calamitous cocktail of sluggish growth, eurozone dysfunction, and financial market volatility.

The Australian government has criticized a lack of political will in Europe to tackle serious economic reform. Deputy Prime Minister Wayne Swan co-wrote an article published in The Financial Times newspaper last month that said a crisis in confidence in policy makers posed a greater challenge than any economic barrier. But Gillard on Monday praised Europe's efforts to tackle its sovereign debt crisis.

"Australia certainly welcomes the important steps European authorities have taken to address sovereign debt problems and to press on with reform," she told reporters.

Nation

Tough economic climate as Obama seeks a second term

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama faces a long re-election campaign having all but given up on the economy rebounding in any meaningful way before November 2012. His own budget office predicts unemployment will stay at about 9 percent, a frightening number for any president seeking a second term.

Obama's prospects aren't entirely grim, however. The GOP, heavily influenced by the tea party, may nominate someone so deeply flawed or right-leaning that, Democrats hope, Obama can persuade Americans to give him a second chance rather than risk the alternative.

Democrats say the man who ran on hope and change in 2008 will have to claw his way toward a second term with a sharply negative campaign.

The strengths and weaknesses of his prospects seem clear.

Next year's unemployment rate is likely to be the highest in a presidential election since 1940. But the leading Republican contenders have denigrated Social Security, switched positions on critical issues and done other things that might make them ripe targets for Obama's well-funded campaign.

Democratic strategist Doug Hattaway says GOP candidates, including Texas Gov. Rick Perry and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, may turn off independent voters with their embrace of tea party stands on taxes, spending and program cuts.

Obama "should lump them all together and make them answer for their slash-and-burn politics," said Hattaway, a former top aide to Hillary Rodham Clinton, Obama's rival for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

To do so, Hattaway said, Obama must link the candidates to congressional Republicans, blamed by Democrats for the nation's stalled job growth and recent downgrade of U.S. creditworthiness.

Making the connection might not prove easy.

Obama's potential challengers have avoided getting dragged into details of the bitter Capitol Hill fights over deficit spending. At least for now, they can lob criticisms at the president while offering few specific, measurable alternatives. "President Obama oversaw an economy that created zero jobs last month, and that is unacceptable," Romney said Friday.

But the influence of the tea party and other conservative groups may give Obama some openings, by pushing the GOP field so far to the right that the candidates risk alienating vital independent voters.

In a debate last month, the top contenders pledged to oppose a deficit-reduction plan even if it cut $10 in spending for every $1 raised by new taxes. Perry, who entered the race after that debate, also has taken a tough stand against higher taxes.

Obama's team says independents, who might pay scant attention to ideologically driven primaries, will find such positions extreme when they compare the eventual GOP nominee and the president.

Political aide David Axelrod hinted that Obama will try to sharpen his differences with Republicans who insist on spending cuts in virtually every area and who refuse to let tax cuts expire, as scheduled, for the wealthiest.

It's hard "to create an economy in which people can get decent jobs and raise a family at the same time we're cutting back on our commitment to spending on education and research and development that will create innovation and jobs," Axelrod said in an interview.

The Republicans' "essential message is, let's go back to the policies that helped get us in this mess," he said, citing Wall Street deregulation and corporate tax breaks.

ELECTION 2012

If the election were held today

Registered voters were asked who they'd vote for when Republican candidates were matched up with President Barack Obama.

• If the 2012 election were held today, for whom would you vote?

Barack Obama 45%
Mitt Romney 45%
Don't know, other 10%

Barack Obama 45%
Rick Perry 42%
Don't know, other 12%

Barack Obama 48%
Michele Bachmann 39%
Don't know, other 13%

Barack Obama 51%
Sarah Palin 37%
Don't know, other 11%

• Do you feel President Barack Obama deserves to be reelected?

Yes 42%
No 51%
Don't know 7%

Source: Quinnipiac poll, of 2,730 registered voters, Aug. 16-27, 2011; margin of error: +/-1.9 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2011 MCT

AP

President Barack Obama, center, talks to reporters on the Temple Street Bridge over the Passaic River as he visits areas damaged by Hurricane Irene, Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011, in Paterson, N.J. Gov. Chris Christie stands left of Obama.

Lee weakens to depression with 35 mph winds

SAUCIER, Miss. (AP)—Lee dumped more than a foot of rain in New Orleans and spun off tornadoes elsewhere Sunday as its center came ashore in a slow crawl north that raised fears of inland flash flooding in the Deep South and beyond.

The massive weather system spent most of the day as a tropical storm but weakened late in the evening to a tropical depression with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 kph). While the change reflected its diminishing wind speeds, forecasters say heavy rain and flooding remain a threat.

Areas of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi near the coast reported scattered wind damage and flooding, but evacuations appeared to be in the hundreds rather than the thousands and New Orleans' levees were doing their job just over six years after Hurricane Katrina swamped the city.

National Hurricane Center specialist Robbie Berg said Lee's flash flood threat could be more severe as the rain moves from the flatter Gulf region into the rugged Appalachians.

Closer to the Gulf, the water is "just going to sit there a couple of days," he said. "Up in the Appalachians you get more threat of flash floods—so that's very similar to some of the stuff we saw in Vermont."

Vermont is still cleaning up and digging out dozens of communities that were damaged and isolated last week when heavy rain from Tropical Storm Irene quickly flooded mountain rivers.

No deaths had been directly attributed to Lee, though a body boarder in Galveston, Texas, drowned after being pulled out to sea in heavy surf churned up by Lee. The Coast Guard was also searching Sunday for a teenage boy swept away by rough surf off Gulf Shores, Ala. A man in Mississippi also suffered non-life-threatening injuries when authorities said he was struck by lightning that traveled through a phone line.

Storm-socked Vermont girds for more flooding

ROYALTON, Vt. (AP)—When the rain-swollen White River rose up and overflowed, it laid waste to the 125-year-old Perley dairy farm.

Cows were carried away. Tractors and trucks were inundated with muddy floodwaters. The water took out a road, destroyed the first floor of the farmhouse, lifted a 6-foot long tank where milk is stored, knocked out power and smothered fields in the 10-acre spread.

"I don't know what we're going to do, but we're going to make it," said farm manager Penny Severance, 48, fighting back tears as she showed the damage to a visitor.

But help was already on the way.

On Sunday, more than two dozen volunteers donned gloves and protective masks to get to work ripping out the flood-damaged walls and floors in a bid to save the farmhouse. Farm owner Harland Perley, 81, had been moved to safety before the floods came.

Similar scenes were still being played out in homes, yards and businesses a week after Tropical Storm Irene unleashed the worst flooding in Vermont in nearly a century. Hundreds of roads and bridges were washed out, isolating whole towns and cutting off vehicle access to houses.

At least three deaths in Vermont were blamed on the storm of the 46 total along the East Coast. One person is still reported missing in the state.

The number of Vermont homes and businesses without power—more than 70,000 in the aftermath of the Aug. 28 storm—dropped to 50 by Sunday, and work continued to restore access to cutoff communities.

But people who've been singularly dedicated to cleanup for nearly a week had a new worry: More flooding.

The National Weather Service predicted heavy rain would drop up to 4 inches in some places between Sunday night and Tuesday, and posted a flash flood watch.

Officials were concerned on a number of fronts. The saturated condition of riverbanks and soil made it unlikely they could absorb much more moisture, for one. Too, the repairs made to roads and bridges just to make them passable may not stand up to more flooding, Gov. Peter Shumlin warned.

"Our roads are fragile," Shumlin said in a visit to the farm Sunday. "The places we have gotten passable again—whether they are goat paths or roads you can actually put a vehicle on—weren't built yet for prime time. We all know our rivers and brooks have been re-routed (by the flooding), and we don't know how they're going to respond."

ACROSS THE NATION

Cheney: US different if Hillary Clinton president

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton isn't president, but Dick Cheney says that if she were in the White House rather than Barack Obama, then things might be different today in the country. Cheney isn't getting into specifics, but he does think that "perhaps she might have been easier for some of us who are critics of the president to work with." The former vice president tells "Fox News Sunday" that it's his sense that the secretary of state is "one of the more competent members" of the Obama administration and it would be "interesting to speculate" about how she would have performed as president.

Woman, child killed when Texas fire engulfs home

DALLAS (AP)—A woman and her 18-month-old daughter were killed Sunday when their East Texas trailer home was engulfed by flames, and thousands of acres across parts of the state continued to burn from wildfires authorities blamed partly on the high winds caused by Tropical Storm Lee. The 20-year-old woman and her child had no chance to escape as a wall of flames ravaged their neighborhood and ultimately their home, Gregg County Sheriff Maxey Cerliano said. A male occupant of the home was burned but able to escape. He frantically searched for the woman and child but couldn't find them, and their bodies were later found near the bathroom inside the double-wide trailer.

Newborn fatally mauled by family dog near Houston

HOUSTON (AP)—A two-week-old Houston-area boy has died after being mauled by the family dog. The incident happened Saturday night as the baby sat in an infant carrier on the floor of a room in the family house. Harris County sheriff's spokesman Thomas Gilliland says the dog, a Labrador mix, began sniffing the child and attacked him before the parents could pull it away. The child was airlifted to Memorial Hermann Hospital, where he died early Sunday. Animal control officers have taken custody of the dog for quarantine.

Asia

Typhoon dumps record rain on Japan, killing 25

TOKYO (AP)—Rescuers in Japan dug through mud-caked debris and searched the banks of swollen rivers Monday for those missing in a powerful typhoon that left at least 25 people dead, the latest disaster for a country still recovering from a calamitous tsunami six months ago.

Typhoon Talas, which was later downgraded to a tropical storm, lashed coastal areas with destructive winds and record-setting rains over the weekend. In addition to the dead and missing, thousands more were stranded as the typhoon washed out bridges, railways and roads.

"We will do everything we can to rescue people and search for the missing," said new Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, who took office just one day before the typhoon hit and whose government is still struggling to deal with the tsunami recovery and the ensuing nuclear crisis.

The typhoon was believed to be the worst to hit Japan since 2004, when 98 people were killed or reported missing. It caused most of its damage on the Kii Peninsula, in central Japan southwest of Tokyo and hundreds of miles (kilometers) from the country's tsunami-ravaged northeastern coast.

Public broadcaster NHK said that as of Monday, 25 people had been confirmed dead in the typhoon, while the Kyodo news agency put the toll at 27. Most of the dead were in Wakayama prefecture. Wakayama official Seiji Yamamoto said 17 were killed there and another 28 missing.

"There are so many roads out that it is hard to count them all," he said.

Rains and wind were recorded across wide swaths of Japan's main island, but no significant damage was reported in the northeast, which is still recovering from the tsunami and earthquake that left nearly 21,000 dead or unaccounted for.

As the typhoon approached, evacuation orders or advisories were issued to 460,000 people. At least 3,600 people were stranded by flooded rivers, landslides and collapsed bridges that were hampering rescue efforts, Kyodo reported.

The center of the season's 12th typhoon crossed the southern island of Shikoku and the central part of the main island of Honshu overnight Saturday. It then moved slowly north across the Sea of Japan off the country's west coast, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

It was still offshore in the Sea of Japan on Monday.

AP

Overflowing water from a river floods a residential area in Nachikatsuura, central Japan, Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011.

ASIA BRIEFS

UN chief sounds climate alarm in Solomons visit

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (AP)—United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon says he has seen firsthand the need for urgent action on climate change after visiting the remote Solomon Islands. During his one-night stay, Ban said rising sea levels are wiping out crops on low-lying islands in the Solomons and threatening the existence of the entire chain, located 1,200 miles (1,930 kilometers) northeast of Australia. Ban said Sunday that he's ready to "sound alarm bells to the whole world" over the dangers of climate change. He said the developed world has a moral obligation to help nations like the Solomons with financial and technological aid.

Gunmen abduct businesswoman in south Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Officials say gunmen have abducted a Filipino businesswoman in the southern Philippines. Regional police chief Elpidio de Asis says three assailants forced 34-year-old Luisita Galvez into a van after dragging her from her beauty salon in Ipil township in Zamboanga Sibugay province late Sunday. He said Monday that earlier reports had identified her as Luisita Morrison, wife of a British national working for an oil company in Malaysia, but that police later learned they were not married.

Chinese official held in deadly drunk driving case

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese state media are reporting an official in eastern China has been detained on accusations he killed a woman while driving drunk. The official Xinhua News Agency reported on Sunday that Yin Xiangyu, a deputy director at a China Construction Bank branch in Anhui province hit a 73-year-old woman on her electric bicycle last week with his company car. Police are investigating whether Yin fled the scene after the incident. China has been cracking down recently on drunken driving.

Aussie bodyboarder dies after shark bites off legs

SYDNEY (AP)—A shark bit the legs off a bodyboarder at a popular surfing spot in western Australia on Sunday, killing the man, police said. Authorities were searching for the shark as well as the man's missing limbs. The man in his early 20s was bodyboarding with five friends when the shark attacked, a police spokesman said. He died at the scene in the surfing haven known as The Farm, off Bunker Bay near the western town of Dunsborough. The beach was closed after the attack.

Filipino rebels slam commander for anti-US threats

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' largest Muslim rebel group criticized a breakaway commander on Sunday for threatening U.S. troops in the country's volatile south.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front information officer Khaled Musa said radical commander Ameril Umbra Kato, who recently broke off with about 200 fighters from the rebel group, could face trouble for issuing such threats.

Philippine officials have expressed deep concern that the rebel infighting could affect ongoing peace talks.

Kato maintains his base in part of his former rebel group's vast mountainous strongholds in southern Maguindanao province. He has warned he would target his former comrades, Philippine troops and U.S. military personnel if they attack his jungle encampment.

U.S. troops have been providing training, weapons and intelligence to Filipino soldiers battling al-Qaida-linked militants in the southern Philippines since 2002. But they are barred from actual combat.

U.S. military officials have not issued any reaction to Kato's threats. U.S. special forces and Philippine troops began two weeks of joint military training in Maguindanao, a violent area about 590 miles (950 kilometers) southeast of Manila, on Aug. 29.

"Whoever dares a superpower will make news headlines," Musa said in a statement posted in the main rebel group's website. He said Kato could get in trouble "when that superpower starts to use its vast power against him."

"He loves limelight and the flare of cameras," Musa said, adding that Kato talks "without using his head."

Kato split from his former group to protest its talks with the government which he said have gone nowhere. He also accused rebel leaders of involvement in kidnappings and drug trafficking.

The 11,000-strong main rebel group officially ousted Kato after failing to woo him and his men back. In an Aug. 19 letter Kato said he has formed a new group called the Bangsamoro Islamic Liberation Movement to fight for Muslim self-rule.

The main Moro group has said it remains open to Kato's return but warned him to stop accusations that undermine the rebel organization.

Kato, who is in his 60s, has been sought by Philippine troops for allegedly launching attacks on Christian communities in 2008.

Pakistan urges Afghanistan to help free youths

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's interior minister on Sunday called on Afghanistan's president to help win freedom for around 30 young Pakistanis held captive by the Pakistani Taliban.

The youths were abducted in Afghanistan four days ago after crossing into Kunar province on a day trip from their border villages in Bajur tribal region.

The Pakistani Taliban said it captured them because they belong to a tribe that set up a militia force backed by Pakistani government to fight the militants.

The minister, Rehman Malik, told reporters he asked Afghan President Hamid Karzai to help free the boys. "I request that you get them released," he said.

Afghan officials have said they were not aware of the kidnapping.

Pakistani officials have said the captives were under 16. The Taliban claimed they have released the youngsters and are holding only young men.

Also Sunday, Hakimullah Mehsud, head of the Pakistani Taliban, claimed his fighters have the upper hand in two Pakistani regions close to the Afghan border. He urged Muslims to support them, according to a video monitored by the SITE Intel Group, which tracks militant websites.

It was Mehsud's first appearance in such a video since he admitted a role in the failed May 1, 2010 attempt to set off a car bomb in New York's Times Square.

Militants from Afghanistan have been attacking security checkpoints in Pakistan in recent months. The Pakistani army has said the attackers fled the military's offensives in Pakistan and are using Afghan territory as a safe haven.

The militants are trying to overthrow Pakistan's pro-Western government and have carried out scores of attacks since 2007.

Hakimullah's video message was released to coincide with the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan last week.

He said the militants scored victories in the Swat and Mohmand regions during Ramadan but gave no details. He called on Muslims to join the fight, saying, "the answer to all our problems lies in jihad."

Hakimullah took over the Pakistani Taliban in 2009 after his predecessor Baitullah Mehsud, was killed in a U.S. missile strike.

World

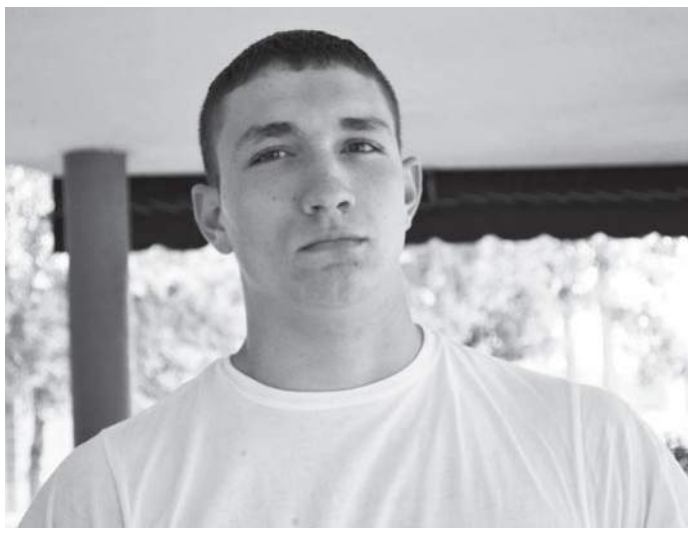
‘Lone wolf’ terrorists seen as the biggest threat

HAMBURG, Germany (AP)—After 9/11, it was the men who went to radicalized mosques or terror boot camps who were seen as the biggest terror threat. Today, that picture’s changed: Authorities are increasingly focusing on the lone wolf living next door, radicalized on the Internet—and plotting strikes in a vacuum.

The March fatal shooting of two American airmen in Frankfurt by a Kosovo Albanian. The bomb plot on Fort Hood, Texas, soldiers—possibly inspired by the 2009 shooting rampage on the Texas Army post. The foiled attack on Fort Dix, New Jersey, by a tiny cell of homegrown terrorists.

These Islamic terror plots share something in common with Anders Behring Breivik, the Norway killer who hated Muslims. They are the work of extremists who are confoundingly difficult to track because they hardly leave a trace.

In today’s transformed security landscape, authorities and experts say, the 9/11 plotters would surely have been caught.



AP

This June 14, 2011 file photo shows Pfc. Naser Abdo in Nashville, Tenn. Abdo was arrested for plotting a solo attack on Fort Hood with a backpack stashed with explosives.

It’s widely believed that these days there’s no way a cell involving 19 hijackers and an extensive support network could have plotted attacks in a Hamburg mosque, trained in terrorist camps in Afghanistan, and took flight lessons in the United States without being picked up by countertenor operations.

And President Barack Obama said in a CNN interview on Aug. 16 that a “lone wolf” terror attack in the U.S. is more likely than a major coordinated effort like the Sept. 11 attacks.

Western authorities have infiltrated major jihadist groups, planting moles, eavesdropping on chatter, keeping tabs on radical mosques, and carrying out regular terror sweeps. Some say the tough measures have eroded civil liberties.

But lone wolves or small homegrown cells that blend into the general population present a more slippery challenge.

“The biggest threats are people working alone or in very small groups,” a senior German intelligence official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

“So it’s not important whether we have 40 or 50 or 60 followers of the jihad (under observation) ... that doesn’t really make much of a difference. The question is are there some that we don’t know but who are planning it?”

Modern technology is also making things harder for authorities.

As extremists adapt to the anti-terror crackdown, they have taken more advantage of the Internet to cloak their communications and recruit new attackers.

“Before, people were recruited in mosques where you’d hear speeches - Finsbury Park or Baker Street” in London, French anti-terrorism judge Marc Trevidic told the AP. “Then that totally stopped. Today, there is not a single case where group members weren’t recruited on the Internet.”

“The ability to self-indoctrinate online is a big concern, because not being in a group complicates our task of surveillance,” he said. A terrorist group, he said, “is easier to monitor, moves around and has meetings.”

That’s what led to the first successful attack on German soil by an Islamic extremist, in which a 21-year-old Kosovo Albanian allegedly gunned down two American airmen outside the Frankfurt airport in March.

Arid Uka, a 21-year-old Kosovo Albanian who grew up in Frankfurt is accused of opening fire at the city’s airport on a busload of U.S. airmen on their way to Afghanistan, killing two and injuring two others.

According to the indictment, Uka was radicalized over time by jihadist propaganda he saw on the Internet, and the night before the act had watched a video that purported to show American atrocities in Afghanistan; it was actually a clip from a film. The investigation turned up no connections with any terrorist organization.

Libya rebels: Talks for loyalist town have failed

TARHOUNA, Libya (AP)—Negotiations over the surrender of one of Moammar Gadhafi’s remaining strongholds have collapsed, and Libyan rebels were waiting for the green light to launch their final attack on the besieged town of Bani Walid, a spokesman said.

Rebel negotiator Abdullah Kanshil said the talks had broken down after Moussa Ibrahim, Gadhafi’s chief spokesman and a top aide, had insisted the rebels put down their weapons before entering the town, some 90 miles (140 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli.

Rebel forces control most of the oil-rich North African nation and are already setting up a new government, but Gadhafi and his staunchest allies remain on the run and enjoy support in several central and southern areas, including Bani Walid and the fugitive leader’s hometown of Sirte.

The rebels have said the hardcore loyalists are a small minority inside the town, but are heavily armed and stoking fear to keep other residents from surrendering.

AP

A rebel fighter signs V for victory at a checkpoint between Tarhouna and Bani Walid, Libya, Sunday.

“We feel sorry for the people of Bani Walid,” said Kanshil, himself a native of the town, speaking to reporters at a rebel checkpoint about 40 miles (70 kilometers) to the north. “We hope for the best for our town.”

The rebels have extended to Saturday a deadline for the surrender of Gadhafi’s hometown of Sirte and other loyalist areas but some have warned they could attack Bani Walid sooner because many of the most prominent former regime officials were believed to be inside.

There has been speculation that Gadhafi himself along with his son Seif al-Islam had been there at some point, and the apparent presence of Ibrahim indicates that the town was a haven for high-level Gadhafi aides.

“This battle has already been decided,” said Ahmed Bani, the rebels’ military spokesman based in Benghazi. “It is only a matter of hours.”

He said there had been clashes around the town for the last four days and rebel forces had come under fire from rockets and machine guns.

Thousands of rebel fighters have converged on Bani Walid in recent days from multiple directions.

The rebels say Gadhafi does have some genuine supporters in Bani Walid, mainly people linked to the dictator through an elaborate patronage system that helped keep him in power for nearly 42 years.

Haiti aims to spread people and jobs across the country

CORAIL-CESSELESSE, Haiti (AP)—When last year’s earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, the school where Sansoir Boyer taught biology and math was reduced to rubble, along with the surrounding neighborhood.

Out of that disaster, however, Boyer has emerged with a new house and job beyond the teeming city he had lived in for years. Along with thousands of other displaced people, he moved to the burgeoning settlement of Corail-Cesselesse on a sun-soaked plain nine miles (14 kilometers) north of the capital. He will be principal of a soon-to-open elementary school.

“I think the area will be transformed and the people who live here will find a better life,” Boyer said outside the row of schoolhouses.

Some 18 months after the quake, Haiti’s government and international partners are trying to create jobs and housing in the countryside in an effort to relieve strain on dangerously crowded Port-au-Prince. The city is one of the Caribbean’s biggest, with about a third of Haiti’s population, having swollen from 200,000 people just a few decades ago to more than 3 million.

Part of the reason was that Francois “Papa Doc” Duvalier, the late dictator, shut down ports and tore up roads to undermine his opponents in the countryside. And in the 1980s, new factories lured farmers to the city from fields where they were struggling to survive.

Today, on the mountainsides surrounding the capital, cinderblock shanties are piled on top of one another. Seasonal rains often trigger mudslides, sending homes crashing down the crowded hills.

When the magnitude-7.0 earthquake struck on Jan. 12, 2010, some 300,000 people died, according to government figures. Densely packed neighborhoods became death traps. Whole neighborhoods were flattened. Many in Haiti have speculated that the death toll would have been lower had there been jobs and basic services in the countryside to keep people there.

Now government officials and foreign aid groups see a rare opportunity to fix the problem.

WORLD BRIEFS

Kurdish legislators push for autonomy in Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Kurdish legislators vowed Sunday to press on with a boycott of Turkey’s parliament and backed a recent declaration of autonomy in the country’s Kurd-dominated southeast. The defiant stances came as Kurdish rebels killed six people while military airstrikes targeted their hideouts. The developments underscored the challenge facing the Islamist-oriented government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in dealing with the Kurds, even as it has taken some steps to improve relations with the long-marginalized ethnic group that makes up some 20 percent of Turkey’s 74 million people.

Poles march in protest of anti-Semitism, racism

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—More than 100 people marched in a Polish city on Sunday to protest racist and anti-Semitic attacks in the area. A small counter-demonstration also was held by people chanting nationalist slogans in the eastern city of Bialystok. The “March of Unity,” which was organized by lawmakers from the governing Civic Platform party, walked in silence from the city center to a monument of Ludwik Zamenhof, a Jewish doctor born in Bialystok, who invented the Esperanto language. The protesters gathered signatures under a manifesto calling for an end to a “wave of thoughtless hatred.”

Cuba revokes accreditation of Spanish journalist

MADRID (AP)—One of Spain’s largest media groups says Cuba has revoked the accreditation of its longtime correspondent on the Caribbean island for alleged bias and negative reporting, the latest in a series of steps by the communist government targeting foreign journalists and news organizations. El Pais said Sunday that 47-year-old Mauricio Vicent has reported from Cuba for the newspaper El Pais and the radio network Cadena SER—both part of Grupo Prisa—for 20 years. He is married to a Cuban woman and has children born on the island. It was not clear whether the revocation of his accreditation meant Vicent would have to leave the country, or if he was just barred from reporting.

Focus

Congress returns, unpopular as well as divided

By DAVID ESPO
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress returns to work this week, divided over measures to create jobs and scorned by the nation it was elected to help lead.

After a five-week break, Republican and Democratic leaders alike promise action to try and ease the country's 9.1 percent unemployment rate and boost an economy that is barely growing. President Barack Obama goes first on Thursday night with a speech to lawmakers and a prime-time national television audience.

But there is little overlap so far in the measures that Republicans and Democrats are recommending, and the rest of the year-end congressional agenda is top-heavy with items that relate to government spending and less directly to job creation.

A new committee, comprised of lawmakers in both parties from both houses and armed with extraordinary powers, is expected to hold its first meeting this week as it begins work on a plan to make long-term deficit cuts. The panel was created as part of last month's agreement to reduce red ink and avert a government default. It faces a Nov. 23 deadline for action.

More immediately, parts of the Federal Aviation Administration will shut down on Sept. 16 unless Congress approves a measure to keep operations running. Federal money for highway construction jobs runs out two weeks later without separate legislation.

The Obama administration is seeking more money for disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Irene, and a partial government shutdown would occur on Oct. 1 unless lawmakers enact an interim spending bill to cover most federal agencies.

With any or all of these measures, there is an opportunity for partisan gridlock or compromise, and it isn't entirely clear which an unhappy public might prefer.

In a late-August Associated Press-GfK poll, only 12 percent of those surveyed said they approved of the job Congress is doing, and 87 percent disapproved. A separate Gallup survey, taken in midmonth, found 13 percent approved and 84 percent disapproved.

"Everybody is kind of in trouble with the electorate," said Republican pollster Bill McInturff. He recently distributed an analysis that concluded the negotiating surrounding last month's agreement to avoid a default is `an extremely significant event that is profoundly and sharply reshaping views of the economy and the federal government.

"It has led to a scary erosion in confidence in both, at a time when this steep drop in confidence can be least afforded."

But if the public was offended by the bickering before the deal, there isn't there much evidence that the compromise on the nation's borrowing limit did much, if anything, to restore confidence in Congress' ability to address economic problems.

A Fox News poll last month showed opinion was split on the compromise, with Republicans overwhelmingly opposed, independents solidly so and Democrats narrowly in favor. But even those statistics masked a deeper divide.

Based on other surveys, McInturff said, "Republicans disapprove because some didn't think we should have raised the debt ceiling at all ... and others because they believe there should have been substantially more spending cuts than what was in the debt ceiling vote."

Independents who disliked the compromise tended to say they wanted deeper deficit reductions. Democrats who disapprove did so because "they can't believe the president is negotiating doing this much with the Republicans," he said, which is a far different reason from the one GOP voters cite.

The Fox News survey showed a similar breakdown.

Republicans and Democrats offer different assessments of the state of congressional approval.

"I'm not the least bit surprised that the rating of Congress is abysmal. If we could do the work that we are supposed to be doing in a reasonable and timely way," it would improve, said Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., a first-termer who is a member of the committee charged with finding $1.2 billion or more in deficit reductions.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., had a somewhat different view, telling an audience in his home state: "Everyone complain all you want about Congress. You should complain plenty. But don't think the country is about to fall apart because of what's going on in Washington."

Already, the differences are evident as Obama and congressional leaders ready job creation plans.

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., recently distributed a list of "Top 10 Job-Destroying Regulations" and said the Republican majority would begin voting this month to block them one by one.

Most, including one that Obama ordered scrapped Friday, deal with pollution limits for a variety of industries; two would curtail National Labor Relations Board actions opposed by business.

Separately, Cantor wrote, the House will "pursue tax relief designed to help American employers create middle-class jobs."

Obama, too, is considering tax breaks to provide businesses to hire new employees. He also is expected to call for new spending on construction projects, and to seek an extension of jobless benefits and a temporary payroll tax cut that is due to expire Dec. 31.

To offset those costs, the president is expected to challenge lawmakers on the debt-reduction committee to go beyond its minimum goal of $1.2 trillion in long-term savings.

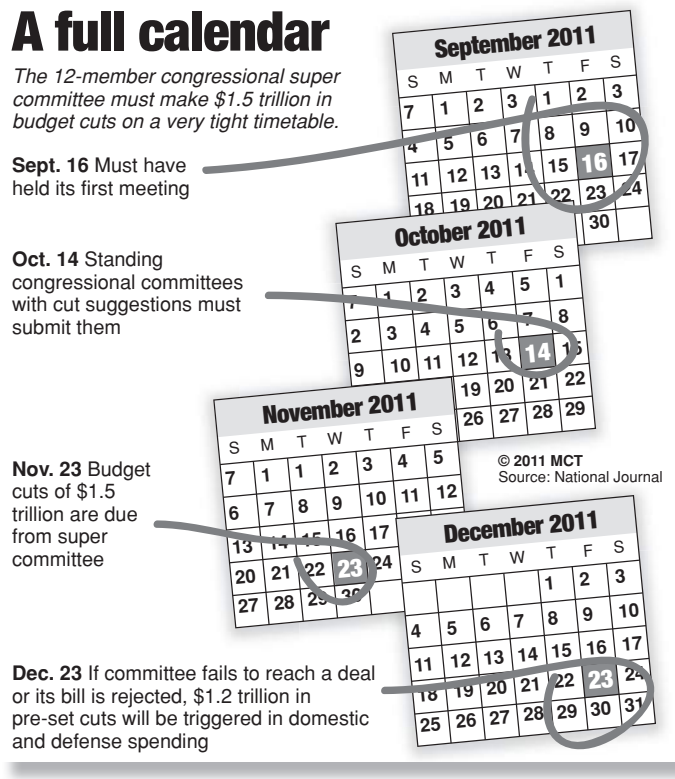
The panel marks the latest and possibly the last attempt of the year to forge a sweeping agreement that can cut trillions from future deficits. Congress must approve $1.2 trillion in deficit cuts to block across-the-board spending cuts that both sides say they would like to avoid.

There are expressions of optimism, but so far, none of outright success.

Reid put the prospects of a compromise at 50-50.

Toomey said he was "cautiously optimistic."

"We know how difficult this task is going to be, and I am heartened by the strong encouragement I have gotten from my constituents and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle," Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., said Friday in a written statement. "We'll begin by identifying those areas where we have common ground, and we are ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work."


A full calendar
The 12-member congressional super committee must make $1.5 trillion in budget cuts on a very tight timetable.
Sept. 16 Must have held its first meeting
Oct. 14 Standing congressional committees with cut suggestions must submit them
Nov. 23 Budget cuts of $1.5 trillion are due from super committee
Dec. 23 If committee fails to reach a deal or its bill is rejected, $1.2 trillion in pre-set cuts will be triggered in domestic and defense spending
September 2011
October 2011
November 2011
December 2011
© 2011 MCT
Source: National Journal

In this Jan. 27, 2010, file photo the sun sets prior to the anticipated State of the Union speech by President Barack Obama to a joint session of Congress in the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

AP

Overdrive

What to consider when shopping for electric cars, plug-in hybrids

By JERRY HIRSCH
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Electric cars are back.

Popular in early automotive history, electrics quickly got smoked by their internal-combustion-driven cousins.

But in this age of volatile gas prices and climate worries, these clean, quiet vehicles are winning new fans. Advances in technology have improved their range and power. Companies are rolling them out in every flavor.

Need a small SUV? Take a look at the Toyota RAV4 electric hitting the market next year. How about a luxury sedan? There's the Fisker Karma plug-in hybrid, which the automaker compares to a Maserati Quattroporte but with better mileage and lower emissions than a Toyota Prius. Do you lean toward small, practical sedans that seat five? The Nissan Leaf may be your ticket.

Although existing offerings and the EVs about to come out are comparable to many conventional gasoline-powered vehicles in virtually every aspect but range, they aren't for everyone. Here's what to consider if you are thinking of making an electric vehicle or plug-in hybrid your next drive.

The cost of going electric

It can cost more to buy and drive an all-electric vehicle than a fuel-efficient car that uses gasoline, such as a Toyota Prius hybrid or Hyundai Elantra.

	Elantra	Prius hybrid	Fusion hybrid	Fusion	Accord	Cruze Eco	Leaf	Volt
EPA MPG rating	33	50	39	26	27	30	99	93/37
Annual tons carbon emissions	5.1	3.4	4.3	6.5	6.2	5.6	1.8	2.8
Vehicle type	Gasoline	Hybrid	Hybrid	Gasoline	Gasoline	Gasoline	Electric	Plug-in hybrid
Cost to drive 25 miles	$2.78	$1.84	$2.35	$3.53	$3.40	$3.06	$0.95	$1.62
Range in miles	380	536	597	410	450	340	73	345
Annual fuel cost	$1,501	$991	$1,270	$1,906	$1,835	$1,652	$571	$969
MSRP for mid trim level	$18,805	$25,280	$31,140	$24,515	$25,875	$21,310	$28,100	$35,080
3 years of fuel	$4,503	$2,973	$3,810	$5,718	$5,505	$4,956	$1,713	$2,907
3 years of maintenance	$1,116	$303	$981	$1,261	$902	$1,415	$855	$1,251
3-year resale value	$12,035	$12,640	$14,350	$11,025	$12,549	$9,925	$15,700	$20,175
3-year cost	$12,389	$15,916	$21,581	$20,469	$19,733	$17,756	$16,968*	$21,063*

Model year 2012 Elantra, Volt and Leaf, all others 2011
3-year cost is an estimate. It does not include taxes on purchase price and registration fees
* Includes $2,000 cost of home charging station
Estimated driving expenses based on 45% highway, 55% city driving, 13,500 annual miles and regular gas: $3.67 per gallon
Electric vehicle charge calculations based on 11.2 cents per kWh
Volt calculations based on 36.5% gasoline-powered miles and use of premium gas at $3.95 gallon; MPG rating separated into gasoline and electric modes
Leaf and Volt prices include deduction for $7,500 federal tax credit; Leaf price includes $2,500 California rebate

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency, Union of Concerned Scientists, Edmunds.com, Kelley Blue Book, ALG Inc., Hyundai, Toyota, Ford, Honda, Chevrolet, Nissan
Graphic: Jerry Hirsch, Paul Duginski / Los Angeles Times

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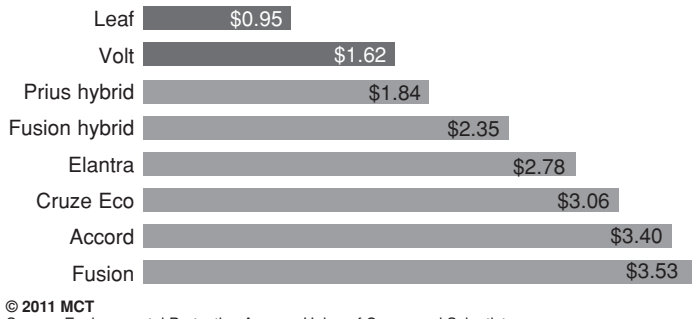
Comparing fuel economy

What it costs to drive 25 miles in electric cars vs. other fuel-efficient cars:



© 2011 MCT
Source: Environmental Protection Agency, Union of Concerned Scientists
Graphic: Jerry Hirsch / Los Angeles Times

BE PREPARED TO PAY MORE: A glance at the sticker prices says it all. You are going to pay more for the privilege of being able to zip along powered by electrons rather than fossil fuel. The cost of a home charging station adds an expense you don't have with a gasoline car, but it does add convenience.

When you take the purchase price, add in the cost of three years of maintenance, three years of fuel and a home charging station, then back out the expected resale price, a Chevrolet Volt will run almost $9,000 more than a similar-size conventional-engine Hyundai Elantra and about $5,000 more than the current Prius hybrid before sales taxes and registration fees. A Leaf has a lower sticker price and qualifies for more incentives, depending on your state. It will cost about $6,500 more than an Elantra and about $3,500 more than a Prius before taxes and registration fees.

PHILOSOPHY OR ECONOMICS: Is it worth the added expense to reduce your dependence on oil? What are you willing to pay to reduce carbon emissions in your neighborhood? The Leaf creates about 1.8 tons of carbon emissions in a year's driving, or about 13,500 miles, according to federal estimates. A Honda Accord spews 6.2 tons of carbon emissions traveling the same distance. If you can keep a Volt—which has a gas engine to kick in and make electricity when the battery runs out—on mostly electric power, you will put up carbon numbers closer to the Leaf.

THINK ABOUT YOUR DRIVE: Face it. If you have a mega-commute, you will be better off in a hybrid or conventional fuel-efficient vehicle.

Motorists who commute about 40 miles or less, or who have easy access to a workplace charging station, will be able to make better use of an EV because they won't be limited by the shorter range of the vehicles.

But even then, be careful. The Toyota Prius Plug-in Hybrid that goes on sale next year will have an all-electric range of only about 13 miles. After that, the gasoline engine starts. People who drive more than 13 to 15 miles a day might be better off buying a conventional hybrid or fuel-efficient gas-powered car and saving the premium they would pay for the plug-in and the expense of a home charging station.

A Nissan Leaf, and some of its rivals hitting the market in the coming months, will go roughly 75 miles or more on one charge. That's enough for a longer commute, but because the Leaf, the Ford Focus Electric and similar cars are pure electric vehicles, there's no backup gas motor to engage and provide a safety net.

CHARGING INTO CHARGING: EVs make the most sense for people who can charge at home, and that rules out most apartment and condo dwellers for now. A home charging station is going to set you back about $2,000 and possibly more, depending on the wiring in your home. You will also need to clear out space in your garage to park a car—imagine that!

And you are going to have to research electricity rates. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, a Leaf owner who drives 13,500 miles annually will pay from $393 to $725 for Los Angeles Department of Water and Power electricity, depending on off-peak or peak charging schedules.

KNOW THE INCENTIVES: Electric vehicles on the market and coming models are expected to qualify for the $7,500 federal tax credit. But various state and other incentives beyond that get tricky, and you need to research the appropriate government agency before you buy.

How to get the most from your car's fuel or charge

Here are some of tips for getting the most out of the gas or electricity in your car.

■ If a car has an eco-mode setting, use it. It forces drivers to accelerate more smoothly and saves energy.

■ Always drive gently off the line; never accelerate hard from a stop.

■ Anticipate stops. If you see a red light, stop sign or heavy traffic ahead of you, let off the accelerator and coast.

■ Keep your top speed at about 60 mph.

■ Make sure your engine is properly tuned.

■ Keep your tires fully inflated to their recommended maximum pressure.

■ Don't haul stuff in your car that you don't need. Take the golf clubs out of the trunk when you get home from playing.

■ Don't tailgate on the freeway. Allow five or six car lengths so that if the car in front brakes, you don't have to hit your brakes. Coast and allow the gap to close somewhat. Generally the car in front will accelerate again before you get close enough to have to use your brakes. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

Electric vehicle glossary

By JERRY HIRSCH
LOS ANGELES TIMES

■ Battery electric vehicle: Also called a BEV. This is a vehicle powered solely or primarily by a battery or battery pack. You charge the battery and run the car. There's no gasoline engine or hydrogen fuel cell to kick in and provide more power when the battery is out of juice. And there is no tailpipe or emissions.

■ EREV: Some automakers call vehicles that run on electric motors and battery power for some distance before a combustion engine starts generating electricity an "extended range electric vehicle." General Motors uses this term to describe its Volt, but others in the industry refer to such a vehicle as a type of hybrid.

■ Hybrid: A hybrid electric vehicle, or HEV, is any vehicle that can draw propulsion energy from a combination of the following on-vehicle energy sources: consumable fuel (used in a combustion engine or fuel cell) and an energy storage device such as a battery, capacitor or flywheel.

■ kWh: A kilowatt-hour is a measure of electrical energy. Batteries (and battery packs) used by electric vehicles and hybrids are rated by the kWh capacity of their battery pack because it represents how far the auto might travel solely on electric power. One kWh generally has enough energy to propel a car four to five miles.

■ Level 1 charging: Charging from a typical wall socket, typically a 110- or 120-volt outlet. Electric vehicles gain five to six miles for every hour they charge on Level 1.

■ Level 2 charging: Charging from a 220- or 240-volt outlet. This goes much faster than a regular wall outlet because it pulls more current at a higher voltage. Most electric vehicle owners install Level 2 charging systems in their homes. An EV can get 10 to 60 miles of range per hour of charging depending on the amperage of the circuit.

■ Level 3 charging: Also known as DC fast charging, this is a specialized high-voltage system that can charge a battery pack in about 30 minutes. It requires a special port on the electric vehicle and a special charging station that, as of now, is not widely available.

■ Off-peak charging: Charging the battery pack during periods of low demand for electricity, usually at night. This can reduce the cost of charging.

■ Parallel hybrid: A vehicle in which drive power is supplied by both an electric motor and a combustion engine working together.

■ Plug-in hybrid vehicle: The vehicle has a battery pack that powers a motor and can be charged through an electrical outlet. Such a car will also have a combustion engine that extends the range of the vehicle once the battery is drained. The extended range can come through the combustion engine powering the wheels or through the engine generating electricity to run the electric motor in the car.

■ Partial zero emissions vehicle: Also known as a PZEV, the vehicle has some sort of technology, such as an electric motor, that allows the car to travel at least some of the time without spewing emissions. They meet certain California Air Resources Board emission limitations and are covered by a 15-year, 150,000-mile warranty on the emissions system.

■ Range anxiety: Fear of not having enough power in the battery to get to a destination.

■ Series hybrid vehicle: A vehicle in which power is delivered to the drive wheels solely by an electric motor but which uses a combustion engine to provide electric energy to the battery or the electric motor.

■ ZEV: A zero-emission vehicle. That means no pollutants come out of its tailpipe. Such vehicles include electric cars and fuel-cell vehicles and often qualify for government sales incentives and other perks such as carpool lane permits.

Life & Style

Reality TV show 'Russian Dolls' stirs controversy

By VERENA DOBNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—A mother is lecturing her 23-year-old daughter about her love life, flailing a kitchen knife above her head for emphasis.

Mom's point: She'd like her immigrant daughter, from the former Soviet republic of Moldova, to marry a man with similar roots, keeping the family's East European Jewish tradition.

Alas, the daughter informs mom that she's already dating a Hispanic man.

But she soon dumps him, on-camera, during a restaurant date.

The scene is captured in a new TV reality show called "Russian Dolls," which premiered on the Lifetime cable network in August and airs Thursdays.

It's been called the Russian "Jersey Shore" or "Real Housewives," featuring six women and two men, plus colorful extras like Anna Kosov, the mother. They're all from the former Soviet Union and either live or have lived in Brooklyn's Brighton Beach neighborhood. But only two actually hail from Russia.

The show has drawn the wrath of neighbors and community leaders who say it creates a caricature of their immigrant world, turning cast members into "Russians in tacky clothes who do little more than eat, drink and party," says John Liasyanskiy, founder of the new nonprofit Russian-Speaking American Leadership Caucus and a budget analyst for the New York City Council.

Kosov

The show's characters do represent "a small portion of our community," acknowledges Yelena Makhnin, executive director of the Brighton Beach Business Improvement District. But she says her neighborhood by the Brooklyn boardwalk is mostly "a very intelligent, very well educated, hardworking community."

Kosov, a hairdresser, had to mend relations with her Mexican-born boss over remarks she'd made on the show about her daughter, Diana Kosov, dating the Hispanic man.

"I told her, 'I'm not racist,'" she says. "I love any kind of people."As for the scene with the knife, "I am not killer!" says Anna Kosov, smiling with amusement.

Still, she's serious about correcting any misunderstanding. She took time on a sunny summer afternoon to join the cast for interviews at the Rasputin nightclub and set things straight.

"At that moment, I make borscht!" she explains. "Who is make borscht without knife? I cut vegetables."

The truth is, there's reality TV—and then there's reality.

"Is that what it says?" asks Albert Binman, roaring with laughter as he reads a promo describing him as a spiffy 26-year-old, a "wheeler-dealer" who "parties every night" and "wants to marry a nice Russian girl."

"I do not party every night," he says. "And I want to marry a nice Jewish girl, not necessarily Russian. Or else, why did my parents send me to yeshiva?" A yeshiva is an Orthodox Jewish school.

Albert goes to work every day, doing medical billing. He lives in the New York borough of Queens.

"I love to hang out with my younger brother; he's 17 and he's the love of my life," he says.

Real life may be more boring than TV, but not always.

A fight between two women in the cast erupted during interviews with The Associated Press at Rasputin.

"Get the (expletive) out!" screamed Marina Levitis, 35, who runs the glitzy cabaret with her lawyer husband.

The remark is aimed at Sveta Rakhman, a 47-year-old banker Levitis didn't know before the series. The women developed a distaste for one another, displayed in a tense upcoming episode set in Rasputin.

The latest faceoff was over who would be interviewed first, with Rakhman ending up last "because she came last," Levitis says angrily.

In the series debut, she, her husband and two young children walk out in the middle of an amateur belly-dancing performance by her 56-year-old mother-in-law, Eva Levitis. She "is just my husband's mother. She's nobody to me," Levitis says in the episode.

In fact, "we're a very close-knit family; everybody gets along just fine," Marina Levitis later tells the AP. But "on TV, you have to shock people, otherwise they're not going to watch it."

Her mother-in-law brushes off the "she's nobody" comment with a burst of laughter, explaining that the seeming hostility between them "does not exist, actually."

When auditioning for the show and signing contracts, no one bargained for the negative reactions.

"Left the Volga, Kept the Vulgar," read one newspaper headline.

Anna Khazanova, a 22-year-old commercial model, is wearing an ultra-short dress that gives her few options for sitting politely in front of an AP television camera. But she says there's much more to her than meets the lens, including mentoring teenage girls who attend the modeling school she started and runs.

"Family means the world to me," says Khazanova, who shared a bedroom with her older sister until the sibling went off to medical school recently. "I've been working since I'm 15, and helped support my family."

Rakhman, the banker, welcomes any punches and hits right back.

Spanish duchess: I'm still in control of fortune

By CIARAN GILES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID (AP)—One of Spain's richest women, who is set to marry for a third time at 85, acknowledges she had to overcome opposition among her children to the wedding but insists she still controls her immense wealth.

In her first comments on the wedding announced last week, the Duchess of Alba told Hola! magazine it was not outside pressure that made her divide some of her riches among her six children before the marriage.

"I made the share-out because I wanted to. Nobody pressured me," she told the magazine. "Anyway, as long as I am alive everything remains in my hands."

The duchess divided up much of her wealth among her children in July, assigning castles, palaces and other property of the 500-year-old House of Alba that they will inherit upon her death.

Duchess of Alba

Spain's media reported the family is satisfied with the decision and within weeks the duchess had announced plans to wed 60-year-old civil servant Alfonso Diez, who she first met more than 30 years ago but only began dating three years ago when they met at a cinema.

In this week's edition of the magazine, she said that agreement "was a little difficult to obtain" but she had been determined.

"I achieved (my objective) of trying to persuade each one," she told the magazine. "I am not a person who lets herself be managed: I have my own ideas and I try to convert them into reality."

The duchess, whose wealth is estimated between €600 million and €3.5 billion ($867 million and $5 billion), told Hola! the wedding would be a small affair and would take place in a chapel at her Duenas Palace in Seville in October. A date has yet to be set.

The duchess, who is regularly featured in Spain's gossip pages and magazines, is a distant relative of Queen Elizabeth and Winston Churchill. Her full name is Maria del Rosario Cayetana Alfonsa Victoria Eugenia Francisca Fitz-James Stuart y de Silva.

Arpaio, Seagal deny dog killing claim during raid

PHOENIX (AP)—Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and actor Steven Seagal deny accusations by a U.S. man and his lawyer that a family dog was killed during a raid for Seagal's reality TV show.

The sheriff's office said in a news release the allegation is without merit. Seagal added he's outraged.

Seagal

The action movie actor was participating in the raid as a special deputy sheriff for his show "Steven Seagal Lawman" on the A&E cable channel. His movie credits include "Under Siege," ''Above the Law" and "Fire Down Below."

Seagal and numerous deputies and posse members were present March 9 during a raid at the home of Jesus Llovera. In the claim, Llovera says an 11-month-old puppy was killed along with 100 roosters.

According to witnesses at the raid, a dog was present on Llovera's property when deputies and SWAT team members, including Seagal, entered the premises with a search warrant to arrest Llovera on cockfighting charges and seize all evidence pertaining to the crime.

Arpaio said there's no evidence to back up the claim that his officers killed a dog.

"If my deputies, or posse man Seagal for that matter, had done something so awful like shooting a family dog, then where are the photos to prove it?" Arpaio asked.

Llovera's attorney, Robert Campos, told The Associated Press Friday his client didn't accuse Steven Seagal of killing an animal on his property in a notice of claim filed against the sheriff's office.

"My client never accused Seagal of having anything to do with the death of his puppy," Campos said. "He (Llovera) just wanted an apology from Seagal for his role in the destruction of my client's home, property and animals."

In Llovera's claim, the sheriff's office and Seagal are accused of setting off explosives to create a distraction and confusion. The claim says Seagal was free to commandeer a tank and crash through an iron gate on the southeast corner of Llovera's property.

In an interview with KTAR Radio in Phoenix during the March raid, Seagal said he was there to help guard one side of Llovera's house.

"We're just sort of, you know, trying to guard one side of the house and see if anybody would run out or anything like that or, do anything worse than that," Seagal said. "We're kind of just doing that and I didn't really enter the house today."

Llovera is seeking $25,000 against the sheriff's office for humiliation, emotional distress and property damage.

AP

People watch the Moor fountain in Rome's Piazza Navona Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011.

Fountain in Rome's Piazza Navona vandalized

ROME (AP)—A man has vandalized a fountain in Rome's famed Piazza Navona, detaching two big chunks off a marble statue.

The damaged statue was a 19th-century copy. A Rome culture official, Umberto Broccoli, said the pieces were recovered and can be reattached to the Moor Fountain.

Security camera footage on Italian TV stations and websites Sunday shows a man climbing in the fountain and repeatedly attacking the statue—one of four large faces at the edge of the fountain—with a large rock. The man struck Saturday morning, when the favorite tourist spot was still relatively quiet, and left before police arrived at the scene. The whole attack lasted less than a minute, according to Italian news reports.

The copy of the original Moor Fountain by 16th-century artist Giacomo della Porta is on the square's south end. Bernini added the central figure in the 1600s.

Investigators also were looking Sunday into whether the same vandal was behind another attack just a few hours later to another symbol of Rome: the Trevi Fountain. A security camera caught a man hurling a rock at the Baroque masterpiece—though missing its target.

Italian officials have tried to fight vandalism in Rome, installing cameras and sending more police to patrol monuments. But the sheer amount of the Italian capital's artistic treasures makes the task difficult.

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Apollo 18

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Tues thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Gonzalo López-Gallego, director
Science fiction • Rated PP 13

Synopsis
NASA's cancelled trip to the moon in the 1970s is the basis for this found footage-style picture exploring what if the urban legend were true that the mission actually did occur and the proof of extraterrestrial life exists on film. Wanted's Timur Bekmambetov produces the film, with Spanish director Gonzalo Lopez-Gallego taking on helming duties.

Shark Night 2D

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Tues thru Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Sinqua Walls, Chris Carmack
Horror • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Vacationing college students fight a shiver of sharks after traveling to an island getaway and being surrounded by the ferocious man-eaters in this sun-soaked shocker from director David R. Ellis (Final Destination 2, Snakes on a Plane). The moment Sara (Sara Paxton) and her friends arrive at her parent's Louisiana lake house, the party is in full gear. Everyone is swimming in the salt-water lake and having a blast until Malik (Sinqua Walls) loses his arm in what initially appears to be a tragic wake-boarding mishap. Determined to get him to the nearest hospital as quickly as possible, Malik's friends fire up the speedboat and hit the water full throttle. It isn't until they're far from shore that the reality of the situation finally dawns on them—the lake is teeming with hungry sharks, and a tiny speedboat isn't about to stop them from getting their next meal. Suddenly, a severed arm is the least of their worries.

★ ★ ★

Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:40
Monday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Tues thru Thurs		4:30	7:30	

Guy Pearce, Katie Holmes
Horror • Rated R

Conan The Barbarian

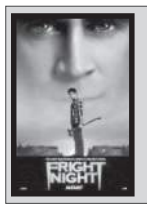
Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Tues thru Thurs		4:10	7:10	

Jason Momoa, Rachel Nichols
Action Fantasy • Rated R

Spy Kids: All The Time In The World

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tues thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

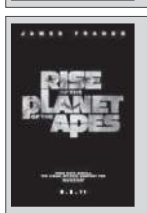
Jessica Alba, Joel McHale
Spy film, Adventure • Rated PG



Fright Night

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Monday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Tues thru Thurs		4:25	7:25	

Collin Farrell, Anthon Yelchin
Horror • Rated R



Rise of the Planet of the Apes

Friday		4:20	7:20	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	10:00
Monday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Tues thru Thurs		4:20	7:20	

James Franco, Freida Pinto
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

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Bailee Madison, a film pro at 11, gives horror a try

By AMY KAUFMAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Perched on a couch with her legs tucked under her, 11-year-old Bailee Madison was excitedly recounting her time filming the new movie "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark" when her mother leaned over a banister and shouted: "Can I interrupt?"

"Bai," began Patricia Riley, halting her daughter's interview, "I think you should tell her about Alex's Lemonade. Because it's really cool how your little friends are helping with your charity."

Bailee paused, seeming momentarily frustrated by the suggestion. But within seconds, a smile was back on her face and she started extolling the virtues of a charity focused on childhood cancer for which she is a national spokesperson.

"Something my mom and I have always said to each other is: 'We're not here for interviews. We're not here to get your picture taken,'" the soon-to-be sixth-grader said. "'We're here to make a difference, and this is our opportunity to.'"

These days, though, Bailee is in fact sitting for plenty of interviews and photo shoots, and seems to have a preternatural poise that many industry veterans would envy. Then again, she's already got more than a decade of experience in front of cameras—she appeared in her first commercial at only 2 weeks old and had a recurring role on Disney Channel's "Wizards of Waverly Place."

On the big screen, she's worked alongside some of the biggest celebrities in show business—Adam Sandler in "Just Go With It," Natalie Portman in "Brothers" and now Katie Holmes in "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark," a horror film that opened Friday.

Endlessly perky, distractingly adorable, incredibly well-behaved and devoutly Christian, Bailee fields questions with adult aplomb. Ask her whose career she hopes to emulate, and she responds:

"I'd like to follow in the footsteps along like Jodie Foster and Natalie Portman, who got their education."

With whom does she dream of costarring in a film?

"I would love to have the honor to get to work with Meryl Streep. I love her and I love her work."

To whom does she credit her success?

"It's all just been such a team effort. And I take all the credit to God and my family."

Bailee and her mother—a former actress who appeared in more than 300 commercials—do seem particularly close. Though her room has a bed overflowing with stuffed animals, Bailee still opts to sleep with her mother every night. And she says that when she wanted to film a testimonial video for the website I Am Second—meaning God is first—it was her mother who gave her the confidence to do so.

ABACA PRESS/MCT

Katie Holmes and Bailee Madison attend the "Don't Be Afraid Of The Dark" premiere at the Walter Reade Theater in New York City, New York on August 8, 2011.

"It was just a video saying how I became close to the Lord, and when I did it, my mom said, 'A lot of people might judge you.' But we decided that this was my faith, and I knew I was ready to go out there and show it."

Riley accompanies her daughter on every set—be it in Los Angeles or Australia, where "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark" was shot. Though Holmes lends the film its star power, it's really Bailee who carries the movie. She plays Sally, a young girl who moves into an old mansion that her father (Guy Pearce) and his girlfriend (Holmes) are renovating.

Quickly after unpacking her bags, Sally begins to discover the house is haunted by monsters who stalk her every move. She tries to convince her family of the creatures' existence, but to little avail.

The role required Bailee to act terrified in nearly every scene, working herself into fits that involved screaming and crying. But that acting challenge didn't seem to faze Bailee, said Guillermo del Toro, who co-wrote and co-produced the film.

"Child actors always can come full of vices, with parents that constantly try to cattle prod them into being cute because that's the way they got a yogurt commercial or a cereal commercial," said the filmmaker.

"Bailee is the best kind of actor. She doesn't act. She's in the moment. She came very highly recommended by Natalie Portman. ... She said to me, 'If you want an actress in that role who can give and take, this is the girl.' She was 100 percent right."

Bailee said she took a practical approach to preparing for the part. To ready herself for a scene in which Sally is harassed by the creepy spirits while taking a bath, she hopped into the tub in her hotel room and asked her mother to turn off the lights.

"My heart started beating. So I was like, 'Just imagine that feeling with creatures coming after you,'" she recalled.

"I remember them asking me if I wanted to use (artificial) tears, but I was like, 'You know what, I'm gonna pass on that.'"

During production, Holmes took Bailee under her wing, often inviting the child actress to accompany her on outings with her husband, Tom Cruise, and young daughter, Suri.

Holmes, 32, said she simply related to Bailee, then 9, as a fellow adult actor.

"She is very focused and she has clear ideas about how she wants a scene to go. It doesn't feel like you're working with someone" so young, said Holmes. "We definitely stay in touch and whenever she's in L.A., we get together. I tell her about projects I'm going to do and she tells me about projects she's going to do. It's the same dialogue I have with any actor."

Bailee admits that nearly everyone she encounters remarks that she seems like a grown-up trapped in a kid's body.

"I really don't know why they say that, but I take it as a compliment, because as a 40-year-old you have experienced so many things in life and you're so mature," she said.

Bailee insists that she is still very much a child, referencing her "blankie," swing set and affinity for cuddling while watching television as evidence. She is enrolled at a private Christian school affiliated with the United Methodist Church in Florida—where Riley is from and where her family keeps another home—though last year Bailee was able to put in only six weeks of classroom time due to her schedule. (The rest of her schoolwork is completed on set with the assistance of tutors.)

As Bailee's acting gains more notice, her family is helping sift through the scripts that have been pouring in. But Riley isn't worried about her daughter's ability to stay level-headed growing up in Hollywood.

"There's never been a worry about Bailee. But I sometimes worry about the decisions I'm making. Like, 'Do I take her home and have her play tennis?'" she admitted.

"If I ever see her change, she knows we're going home. But she's kind. She's polite. She's sweet. And nothing, I think, has changed. But she knows if it does, there will be a U-Haul right outside, and we're out of here."

Walters' 'View' primed for run at top of ratings

NEW YORK (AP)—With Oprah Winfrey gone, daytime television is ready for a new monarch.

Barbara Walters and the show she invented 15 years ago, "The View," pronounce themselves ready to step up. She may be past 80 now, but would YOU bet against her?

The show begins its new season Tuesday, with New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg as guest. In a muddled daytime picture, "The View" plans to compete aggressively for displaced Winfrey viewers with a more topical feel, aggressive booking of guests and a few pages ripped from Oprah's playbook.

"Oprah was the only other show that did some of the things that we did," said Bill Geddie, executive producer. "Quite honestly, some of the people that we might have gotten second, we'll be getting first now."

"The View" has just as much chance as any to become the daytime talk leader. Late afternoon, where Winfrey's show ran across most of the country, is considered a more desired time slot than the 11 a.m. home of "The View." But a big mixture of personalities like Dr. Phil, Ellen DeGeneres, Anderson Cooper and Dr. Oz will now be competing in the afternoon, some of them new to their time slots or new to the business, and none goes in with a huge advantage in the ratings, said Bill Carroll, an expert in the daytime market for Katz Media.

Meanwhile, "The View" is a fixture at its time of day.

"Consistency always works in your favor," Carroll said.

Geddie noted that no 11 a.m. show has ever been the top daytime talk program, and he seems eager for the challenge of changing that.

The time slot was no real prize back in 1996. ABC had a string of failures there before asking Walters to come up with an idea for a show. She thought of presenting a handful of women with diverse backgrounds and opinions, primarily an entertainment show. Still busy at ABC News, Walters appeared only two days a week and asked Meredith Vieira to be moderator, a role now held by Whoopi Goldberg.

AP

In this image released by ABC, host Barbara Walters is pictured on the new set for the daytime talkshow "The View," on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011 in New York. The show will start it's 15th season on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Only 60 percent of ABC viewers could see the show at first, and Walters remembers spending much of her first year cajoling station managers across the country to carry it. Now "The View" is seen virtually everywhere on ABC.

"The View" evolved to become more topical and opinionated as the years went on, a progression that is continuing. The Sept. 9 show will feature former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and focus on the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. Former Vice President Dick Cheney and GOP presidential candidate Jon Huntsman are each scheduled to appear in the first month.

Such guests co-exist with the popular "hot topics" opening segment, where Goldberg, Walters, Joy Behar, Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Sherri Shepherd kick around the day's water-cooler subjects.

Still, Walters cautioned, "We are not 'Meet the Press.'" Not when Kim, Kourtney and Khloe Kardashian are booked for Wednesday. Matthew Broderick, Jennifer Aniston, Demi Moore and Alicia Keys are among other first-month guests.

Behar and Shepherd will talk about what it was like for each of them to get married this summer, and the show plans to candidly follow Shepherd's effort to have another child.

"We still do loving interviews," Walters said. "We're not Bill O'Reilly."

Fox News' O'Reilly, who's had some memorable tangles with the ladies of "The View," is also booked for the first month.

"Authors, actors, celebrities and so forth need a place to go," she said. "And we're a very good place to go. We're an intelligent show, we are a stable show, we like each other. ... It's a fun show, and I think they will feel all the more comfortable with us."

Sound like a pitch? Walters has made a few in her day. Much of the energy she brought to finding big interview "gets" for ABC News is now focused on "The View," where she usually appears three or four days a week. Firmly establishing the topical niche is a preemptive strike against CNN's Cooper, who premieres his show this fall, and Walters' ABC colleague Katie Couric. Couric, who was a guest host on "The View" once this summer, begins her own daytime talk show next year.

Ex-Spice Girl Brown gives birth to daughter

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a girl for singer Melanie Brown and her husband, Stephen Belafonte.

An e-mail from a representative for the former Spice Girl says the couple "welcomed their new baby girl in Los Angeles" on Thursday night.

The e-mail says "this is the first child for Brown and Belafonte and both Mom and Baby are happy, healthy and doing well."

There were no other details.

The 36-year-old formerly known as "Scary Spice" has two older daughters.

Brown and Belafonte were married in 2007.

Belafonte is a movie producer whose credits include "Thank You for Smoking." He has an older daughter.

Kanye West closes first 'Call of Duty' convention

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kanye West closed down the inaugural "Call of Duty XP" convention, a two-day event celebrating the popular Activision Blizzard Inc. shoot-'em-up video game franchise, with an explosive concert inside a hangar on the old airfield where Howard Hughes built the Spruce Goose. West's performance included such hits as "Gold Digger" and "Love Lock Down."

West, who was joined several times throughout the show by 20 scantily clad female dancers, kicked off the Saturday spectacle by ascending more than five stories above the crowd on a platform inside the cavernous space. Earlier, the hangar stage served as the final battleground for a "Call of Duty" tournament that awarded $1 million in prize money.

The four-man group Optic Gaming from the United States toppled 31 other teams from across the globe to win the event's single-elimination "Modern Warfare 3" tournament. William "BigTymer" Johnson, Blake "Vengeance2T" Campbell, Joseph "Merc SD" DeLuca and Matthew "NaDeSHoT" Haag bested the United Kingdom team Til Infinity to take home the $400,000 grand prize.

"This is definitely the most that we've ever won," said Johnson, 20.

"Call of Duty" devotees lined up at the extravaganza for a chance to play the multiplayer mode of "Modern Warfare 3," spar on paintball fields modeled after "Modern Warfare 2" levels, glide over the event on a zipline, zoom around an obstacle course in a Jeep and grab grub from an eatery resembling the game's fictitious Burger Town fast food chain.

MDA telethon hosts: Lewis retired from fundraiser

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The hosts of the 46th annual Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon say Jerry Lewis has retired from the yearly fundraiser—the organization's first comments since announcing the beloved icon's departure last month.

Lewis publicist Candi Cazau declined comment to The Associated Press when told of the comments to open the telethon on Sunday.

Co-host Nigel Lythgoe said during his opening comments on the telethon that he didn't realize Lewis was thinking about retirement during the show last year, when the comedian offered Lythgoe his seat during a break in the fundraiser.

Entertainment journalist Jann Carl followed Lythgoe by saying Lewis retired from the telethon this year.

MDA spokesman Jim Brown declined comment beyond the hosts' remarks, but said the telethon would include at least one more nod to Lewis.

Aunt who heard confession should keep vow of silence

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My nephew, "Charles," a minister in his 50s, confided to me that he is unhappy in his marriage and is attracted to someone else. He asked me to keep this confidential, and I have.

Charles' wife and I are together a few hours per week on a regular basis. She is concerned because he seems depressed and spends most of his time at home sleeping. She knows Charles considers me a mother figure now that both his parents are deceased. She is suggesting that perhaps he has shared with me some of the reasons for his depression.

I feel horrible. If this comes out—and it will—Charles' wife will feel betrayed on many levels. I don't know what to do. Can you help?

IN TOO DEEP IN MICHIGAN

DEAR IN TOO DEEP: Your nephew's wife is on a fishing expedition. That's why she's "suggesting" he might have shared confidences with you. Do not betray them. Instead, tell her that if she's concerned about her husband's state of mind, the person she should be asking is HIM. It's the truth. They have a lot that needs talking about.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Before my husband's 30th birthday, I worked hard planning a surprise party for him. Family members came from other states, and I had housing available for all of them. I hid the food and other supplies at friends' homes. Things went well, and my husband was thrilled to see his family and friends.

My milestone birthday was last year, and my husband didn't do anything special. I didn't mind because I had told him I was "done aging." However, I accidentally discovered he's planning something this year.

While on vacation at my in-laws', I saw his mother had reserved the date of the party on her calendar. When I visited his sister, the invitation was open on the dining room table. I was able to see all the details of my "surprise." When I went to our mailbox, I found two invitations to my party that were undeliverable. I pretended I'd forgotten to pick up the mail and asked him to get it.

Should I tell my husband I know about the party or continue to play "dumb"? I have been told in so many ways that it's getting harder not to say anything, but I don't want to ruin this for him, either. I feel guilty for knowing. What should I do?

NOT SO SURPRISED

DEAR NOT SO SURPRISED: Stop feeling guilty—you did nothing wrong. Keep your mouth shut and act surprised. Your husband is going to a lot of trouble to give you a special gift, and you should accept it in the spirit in which it is being given.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 31-year-old woman who was taught growing up that if a person older than I doesn't have a seat, to give mine up. I now have a few questions about this practice.

If someone refuses the seat I offer, what do I do? How long should I remain standing, waiting for him or her to sit down? I have experienced this issue with the baby-boomer generation—people in their 50s and 60s who refuse to take the seat. I feel like an idiot standing with them while a seat is available. Any help you can offer would be great.

MINDING MY MANNERS IN NEW YORK

DEAR MINDING YOUR MANNERS: (And beautiful manners they are.) You are dealing with the generation who coined the phrase "Don't trust anyone over 30." Most boomers, some of whom are now turning 65, do not consider themselves to be "older." Don't let it be lost on you that there's a very successful store called Forever 21 that doesn't cater just to teenagers. If one of the eternally young refuses your generous offer, the appropriate thing to do is sit back down. No harm, no foul.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THE RAIN STOPPED!
THIS IS THE BEST TIME TO GO WORMUCKING. LET'S GO!
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S WHEN YOU WALK ON THE PAVEMENT AND MUCK ALL THE WORMS.
WATTERSON
9-6

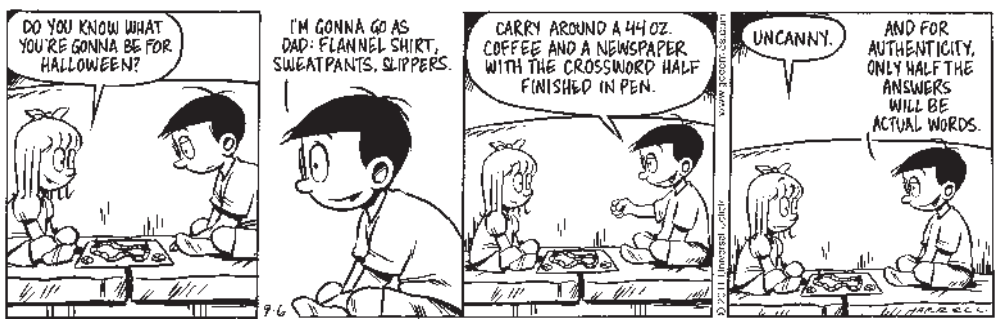
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

IT'S EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE QUIZ SHOW, "ASK ODIE"!
READY FOR YOUR FIRST QUESTION, ODIE?
HMMM...
THAT WASN'T IT, DIPWAD!
Distributed by Universal Uclick
JIM DAVIS 9-6

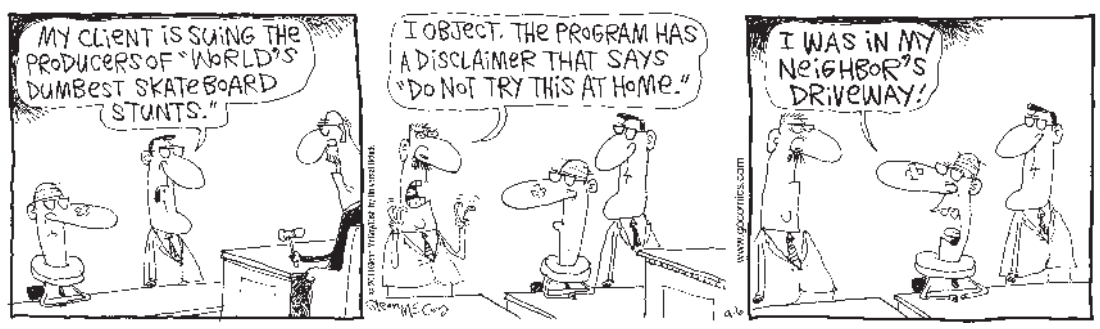
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA BE FOR HALLOWEEN?
I'M GONNA GO AS DAD: FLANNEL SHIRT, SWEATPANTS, SLIPPERS.
CARRY AROUND A 44 OZ. COFFEE AND A NEWSPAPER WITH THE CROSSWORD HALF FINISHED IN PEN.
UNCANNY.
AND FOR AUTHENTICITY, ONLY HALF THE ANSWERS WILL BE ACTUAL WORDS.
9-6

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


MY CLIENT IS SUING THE PRODUCERS OF "WORLD'S DUMBEST SKATEBOARD STUNTS."
I OBJECT. THE PROGRAM HAS A DISCLAIMER THAT SAYS "DO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME."
I WAS IN MY NEIGHBOR'S DRIVEWAY!
www.glocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

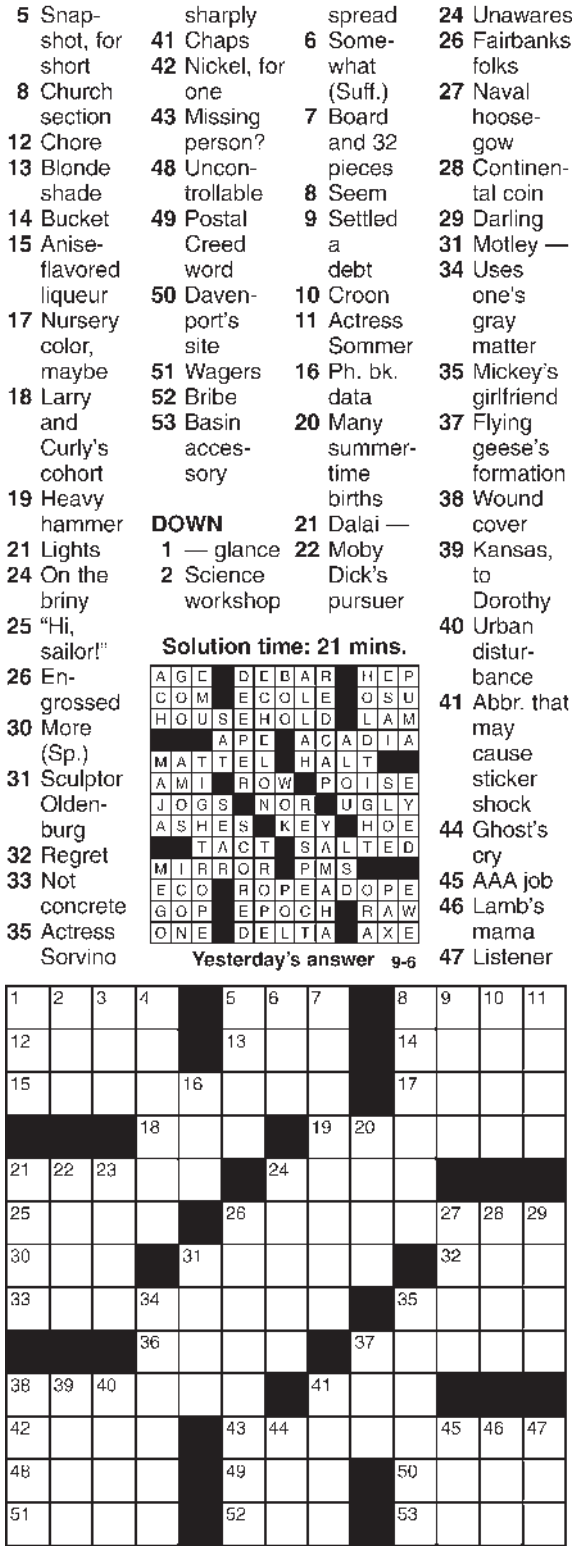
ACROSS
1 "Woe is me!"
5 Snapshot, for short
8 Church section
12 Chore
13 Blonde shade
14 Bucket
15 Anise-flavored liqueur
17 Nursery color, maybe
18 Larry and Curly's cohort
19 Heavy hammer
21 Lights
24 On the briny
25 "Hi, sailor!"
26 Engrossed
30 More (Sp.)
31 Sculptor Oldenburg
32 Regret
33 Not concrete
35 Actress Sorvino
36 Corn peel
37 Energy
38 Yell sharply
41 Chaps
42 Nickel, for one
43 Missing person?
48 Uncontrollable
49 Postal Creed word
50 Davenport's site
51 Wagers
52 Bribe
53 Basin accessory

DOWN
1 — glance
2 Science workshop
3 Fool
4 Meager
5 Cracker spread
6 Somewhat (Suff.)
7 Board and 32 pieces
8 Seem
9 Settled a debt
10 Croon
11 Actress Sommer
16 Ph. bk. data
20 Many summertime births
21 Dalai —
22 Moby Dick's pursuer
23 Rolling stone's lack
24 Unawares
26 Fairbanks folks
27 Naval hoosegow
28 Continental coin
29 Darling
31 Motley —
34 Uses one's gray matter
35 Mickey's girlfriend
37 Flying geese's formation
38 Wound cover
39 Kansas, to Dorothy
40 Urban disturbance
41 Abbr. that may cause sticker shock
44 Ghost's cry
45 AAA job
46 Lamb's mama
47 Listener

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	G	E		D	E	B	A	R		H	E	P
C	O	M		E	C	O	L	E		O	S	U
H	O	U	S	E	H	O	L	D		L	A	M
			A	P	E		A	Ç	A	D	I	A
M	A	T	T	E	L		H	A	L	T		
A	M	I		R	O	W		P	O	I	S	E
J	O	G	S		N	O	R		U	G	L	Y
A	S	H	E	S		K	E	Y		H	O	E
			T	A	C	T		S	A	L	T	E	D
M	I	R	R	O	R		P	M	S			
E	C	O		R	O	P	E	A	D	O	P	E
G	O	P		E	P	O	C	H		R	A	W
O	N	E		D	E	L	T	A		A	X	E

Yesterday's answer 9-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pippa Middleton, 28; Greg Rusedski, 38; Rosie Perez, 47; Swoosie Kurtz, 67.

Happy Birthday: Take care of your responsibilities. Keep things running smoothly at home. You should concentrate on learning and interacting with people who can contribute to your plans and goals. A change in location will allow you to compare what you have been used to and what you feel you can acquire if you work hard. Love is on the rise, and romance will enhance your life. Your numbers are 3, 10, 16, 21, 25, 38, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll be unpredictable and apt to get into trouble if you unleash your temper. Concentrate on accomplishment, not what everyone else is doing or saying. Isolation can be a good thing, especially if you have a job to do. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Pick up information that will help you advance. Travel that is related to business or education will pay off and set you on a course that will be prosperous. Good fortune is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll have marvelous suggestions, and offering help will certainly raise your profile, but be careful when it comes to your financial affairs. Someone may try to get you to donate or pay for something that is not your responsibility. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You can show emotions as long as you aren't erratic when making decisions or discussing plans. If you are honest about how you feel and how you see things unfolding, you will avoid conflict. Love is on the rise, and making positive changes at home will ensure that greater opportunities will follow. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Before you spend, lend or borrow, get financial advice. A change that alters your overhead will help you get back on track. Relying on a promise that has not been put in writing will disappoint you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Follow through with your plans. By taking action, you will impress someone who can help you make positive changes. A move, a business trip or networking will pay off. Set aside a few hours for romance. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Work behind the scenes or tie up loose ends that can help you financially. Don't give in to emotional threats or angry complainers. Someone may be trying to take advantage of you. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Pay attention to detail and question unorthodox methods. Stick to what you know and do things that feel comfortable. A lifestyle change may be necessary to continue doing what you enjoy most. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Think matters through before making a move. Not everything is as simple as it appears. Underlying circumstances will present obstacles that will put a damper on your plans. You need to deal with the people your plans affect before you can move forward without facing opposition. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have all the right moves. Follow through with your plans and you will get ahead. A contract, deal or settlement will lean in your favor if you are open and honest regarding your motivations. You will impress the people who can do the most for you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Dishonesty regarding what's being offered and what's expected in return is evident. Dissect your options carefully, and you will realize you should go solo. Personal partnerships can be fun, especially with an old friend or lover, but determine the cost before venturing down that path. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): It's whom you know that will make a difference. Networking with people you meet while volunteering will bring the highest returns. Good fortune can be yours if you form an alliance with someone who offers as much as you do in return. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have stamina and compassion. You are hard-working and open-minded.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7		6	2				
4	6		3			9		
		5					8	
1	2				4			
5				9				7
			8				5	6
	5					4		
		4			2		3	9
				1	3		2	

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	3	2	5	6	1	4	7
5	7	1	3	9	4	2	8	6
2	6	4	7	1	8	5	9	3
7	1	2	6	4	5	8	3	9
8	3	9	1	7	2	4	6	5
4	5	6	9	8	3	7	1	2
6	2	7	8	3	1	9	5	4
3	4	8	5	2	9	6	7	1
1	9	5	4	6	7	3	2	8

Difficulty Level ★ 9/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PEELING AN ORANGE IN ONE SHOT Solution: 8 letters

T	E	V	S	D	E	E	S	I	R	Y	E	R	N	M
D	R	I	P	F	V	S	T	O	G	G	E	C	A	P
E	O	A	I	B	R	O	L	N	D	G	S	J	V	U
P	C	N	P	U	A	O	O	E	N	A	E	U	E	N
A	K	A	I	Ⓡ	C	L	L	I	A	S	K	I	L	C
H	N	M	Ⓔ	N	U	E	F	L	T	E	A	C	T	T
S	T	Ⓐ	C	F	P	E	Z	I	S	M	H	Y	H	U
E	Ⓛ	D	E	O	I	P	C	P	O	I	S	A	I	R
S	T	R	I	P	S	A	I	M	L	T	N	N	N	E
A	A	N	R	W	L	R	E	L	D	D	I	M	M	K
C	T	I	I	L	A	N	E	T	S	T	F	O	S	C
Y	M	R	Y	L	T	T	S	H	O	W	T	A	U	I
E	L	A	E	U	B	I	G	U	A	T	O	R	C	P
Y	N	D	M	P	U	L	P	M	O	N	L	R	O	E
K	D	E	E	C	C	U	S	B	A	N	G	T	K	C

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Bang, Big, Bottom, Burn, Careful, Carve, Case, Color, Core, Curl, Drip, Edge, Face, Finger, Hands, Hang, Juicy, Knife, Long, Loose, Majestically, Middle, Momentum, Navel, Pace, Part, Peel, Pick, Piece, Pointy, Prime, Pulp, Puncture, Real, Roll, Saggy, Seeds, Shakes, Shaped, Show, Size, Snap, Soft, Spiraled, Strip, Succeed, Swirly, Tell, Thin, Thumb, Time, Top, Width, Work, Yank

Yesterday's Answer: Gun Shy

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Telephone: (670) 235-3425
FAX: (670) 235-3427

Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of	]	**FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0380-FCD**
RODERICK JARAE HERNANDEZ PIERCE, [d.o.b. 01/28/2002]	]	
A Minor Child.	]	

NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR ADOPTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Richard W. Pierce and Carol Lynn Calobong-Pierce for the adoption of the minor child identified in the petition and requesting termination of the parental rights of the minor child identified in the petition and requesting termination of the parental rights of the minor's biological parents, will come before the Court for hearing on September 12, 2011 at 1:30 p.m., CNMI Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan.

DATED, this 30th day of August, 2011.

/s/ CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC., dba TRIPLE J MOTORS, Plaintiff,	]	
-v-	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 95-0063**
EDGARDO T. EDEJER and REBECCA N. EDEJER, Defendants.	]	

FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Amended Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on January 18, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 002 G 326, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 08 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1905, dated May 14, 1990, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on September 16, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 2nd day of August, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

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JVA No. 11-056

Opening Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2011
Closing Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2011

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Salary: $35,163 to $49,242; Un-classified, Un-graded.
Position: One.
Contract: Two-year.

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Public Law 17-36 restricts CUC in hiring foreign national workers. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, U.S. Permanent Residents, or otherwise eligible to work in the U.S. and specifically the CNMI without needing sponsorship by CUC for a U.S. work visa.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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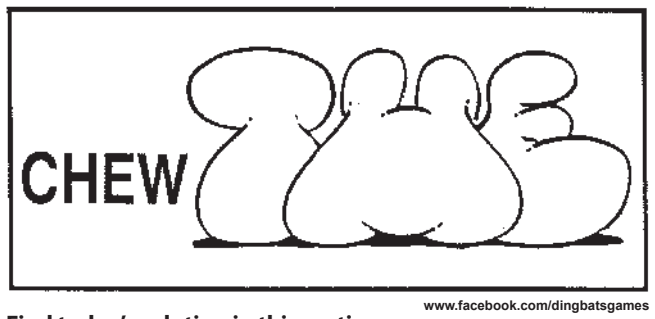

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Find today's solution in this section

Nadal wins, then deals with painful leg cramps

AP

Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts to pain during a press conference after his match against David Nalbandian of Argentina during the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011.

NEW YORK (AP)—Rafael Nadal rolled his head back, squeezed his eyes shut, covered his contorted face with his left arm and leaned awkwardly in the leather chair used by players during U.S. Open news conferences.

Frozen by the leg cramps that simultaneously hit his right hamstring and thigh about two hours after he'd won his third-round match, Nadal stopped taking reporters' questions and paused between deep breaths to plead in Spanish, "Can you call a trainer for me, please?"

Then slowly—and scarily to those watching, because it was unclear at that moment to anyone but Nadal himself exactly what was wrong—the defending champion slithered out of the chair and went down to the ground, hidden from view by a table. Within minutes, Nadal was sitting up, and then standing, after being given bags of ice to soothe his painful leg and bottles of water and Gatorade to drink.

Even if it all amounted to nothing serious from a medical standpoint—as Nadal and his manager would later insist, chuckling—it was a bizarre scene, one at least as memorable as anything that took place on court Sunday at the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

"It's bad luck it happened here," Nadal said, "and not in the locker room."

His point was that tennis players often deal with cramps, particularly after competing in the sort of conditions Nadal did while beating 2002 Wimbledon runner-up David Nalbandian 7-6 (5), 6-1, 7-5 on a muggy afternoon with the temperature in the 80s.

"It's just something that happens. It's just unfortunate it happened in front of you all," 2003 U.S. Open champion Andy Roddick told reporters after a straight-set victory over Julien Benneteau to get to the fourth round. "Every single player in there has had that happen before. Every single one. What we do—we run around, run miles and miles and miles and miles on the tennis court in nasty weather—(and) you throw nerves in there. I mean, it happens. As long as it doesn't happen during a match, you're fine."

Roddick continued: "Cramps are fine. It's not an injury. A cramp is a cramp. When you go to bed and your foot cramps, it's the same thing."

With No. 28 John Isner and unseeded Donald Young also winning Sunday, and No. 8 Mardy Fish advancing Saturday, Roddick is part of the first quartet of American men to reach the U.S. Open's fourth round since 2003.

Others moving on included 2008 runner-up Andy Murray, who beat No. 25 Feliciano Lopez 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 at night; No. 5 David Ferrer, Roddick's next opponent; No. 12 Gilles Simon, who got past 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 7-6 (3); and unseeded Gilles Muller, who will face Nadal for a quarterfinal berth.

Nadal wasn't the only player who appeared to be bothered by Sunday's heat and humidity: No. 26 Flavia Pennetta of Italy felt as though she needed to throw up right out there on court during her 6-4, 7-6 (6) victory over No. 13 Peng Shuai of China.

"It was a bunch of things: the heat, the tension," said Pennetta, who knocked off three-time major champion Maria Sharapova in the third round. "It's not normal, but it happens."

Pennetta now plays Angelique Kerber of Germany, who defeated Monica Niculescu of Romania 6-4, 6-3.

When a reporter began a question by asking Pennetta about beating Kerber when they played on clay at Bastad, Sweden, less than two months ago, Pennetta cut him off.

"This year? Really? I didn't know that," Pennetta said. "I thought I'd never played her. I swear to God."

Fifth-seeded Sam Stosur, the 2010 French Open runner-up, isn't likely to forget her 6-2, 6-7 (15), 6-3 victory Sunday night over No. 25 Maria Kirilenko—or at least the second-set tiebreaker. The 17-15 score made it the longest tiebreaker played by two women at any Grand Slam tournament, according to the WTA.

Kirilenko won that set—saving five match points in the process—to force a third, and TV broadcaster John McEnroe declared of the tiebreaker: "There, in a nutshell, is why this is such a great sport."

In the quarterfinals, Stosur will play 2010 U.S. Open and Wimbledon finalist Vera Zvonareva, who defeated No. 22 Sabine Lisicki 6-2, 6-3 in the last match of the night at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Much earlier, on that same court, Nadal dealt with two too-close-for-comfort sets and was treated by a trainer for a blister on his right foot during an injury timeout.

The 76th-ranked Nalbandian went up a break in the fifth game and served for the first set at 5-4, but he double-faulted on break point. Then, at 3-all in the tiebreaker, Nalbandian double-faulted again, helping the second-seeded Nadal nose ahead. After a quick second set, Nalbandian broke to begin the third, but Nadal broke right back and wound up finishing things in a little more than 2 1/2 hours.

"I was happy about almost everything today," Nadal said. "I think my movements worked pretty well, and the forehand worked really well, and the backhand, too."

Notice that he did not mention his serve.

So far he's not been nearly as dominant as he was along the way to completing a career Grand Slam at the U.S. Open a year ago. In 2010, he lost a total of five service games in seven matches; in 2011, he's already been broken nine times through three matches.

On court, though, he's never looked as vulnerable as he did Sunday, slumped in a chair at a news conference.

Watson takes a 1-shot lead in Deutsche Bank

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—For all that went wrong for Bubba Watson on the back nine Sunday, at least he still had the lead at the Deutsche Bank Championship.

Right when he was starting to pull away in the third round at the TPC Boston, Watson lost control off the tee and made three bogeys in a five-hole stretch, then failed to get up-and-down for birdie from just behind the par-5 18th green. He still managed a 1-under 70 to take a one-shot lead into the final round of the second FedEx Cup playoff event.

"It's always nice to be in the final group because then you know what everybody is doing. If you play slow enough, you'll be two holes back, so when you know what you have to do," said Watson, one of golf's quickest players. "It's a good position to be in. That's where you want to be. Every week, that's what we try to do, is get in the final group because that means you have a great chance."

Even so, the Labor Day finish figures to be wide open.

Adam Scott (71) and Jason Day (67) were among five players in a tie for second. Luke Donald, the No. 1 player in the world, and Jim Furyk were in the large group just two shots behind.

Phil Mickelson even has a chance. He holed out a 7-iron from the rough on the 12th hole for eagle on his way to a 63, and wound up among two dozen players separated by four shots with 18 holes remaining.

"It's not even that there's so many guys," Brendan Steele said. "It's who the guys are, too. There's a lot of talent there. Somebody is going to have to definitely go and take this tournament. It's not going to be given to them."

The tournament became so wild over the final hour that Steele couldn't even find his name on the first two pages of the electronic leaderboard after a bogey on the 14th. He rolled in a long birdie putt up the ridge on the 16th, then hit 5-iron to 4 feet for eagle on the last hole for a 67 and was in a six-way tie for the lead.

That's nothing new for the TPC Boston. Six years ago, there was a five-way tie for the lead going into the final round in the Deutsche Bank Championship. Adding to the stakes this year is the FedEx Cup, with the winner assuring himself a spot among the top five at the Tour Championship when 30 players have a shot at the $10 million prize.

Watson moved to 13 under after a short birdie on the 10th to build a two-shot lead. But he was wild to the left on the par-3 11th for bogey, and he had to scramble for bogey on the 12th after a poor tee shot. He reclaimed the lead with a birdie on the 17th.

Watson was at 11-under 202 as he goes after his third win of the year, and by far the biggest of his career.

The new long shot of these playoffs is Chez Reavie, who had a 68 and was one shot behind. Reavie started the season on a major medical exemption, meaning he had 13 events to earn $673,983 and keep his card. He missed his mark through June, then got into enough tournaments and did well enough to qualify for the playoffs.

At No. 87 this week, he now has a good chance to get to the third playoff event outside Chicago—and maybe even the Tour Championship at East Lake for the first time in his career.

Not bad for a guy who, despite having earned more than $1 million this year, isn't even eligible for the Fall Series because he won't have full standing again until next year.

"It's been a strange year," said Reavie, who missed the second half of 2010 with a knee injury he didn't know existed. He had his meniscus repaired in his right knee, along with a rebuilt ACL using the ligament from his knee cap.

Mickelson, who is using a belly putter this week, had three straight birdies early in his round, a birdie-birdie-eagle stretch in the middle and finished with a two-putt birdie from 10 feet. He finished his round some two hours before the leaders even went to the range, not very optimistic that he would be in the mix.

The wind arrived, however, and while it made a two of the par 5s easy to reach, it caused some confusion and became even more punishing when balls strayed from the fairway.

Of the last eight players to tee off in the third round, Jerry Kelly had the best score at 68. That put him in the mix, just one shot behind. Those players in the last four groups had a combined score of only 3 under.

Now, it's anyone's game on Monday, when the wind again is likely to be a factor.

DBacks beat Giants, stretch NL West lead

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Arizona Diamondbacks extended their National League West division cushion to a season-best seven games with a 4-1 win over the San Francisco Giants on Sunday.

Willie Bloomquist hit a go-ahead two-run triple after Ryan Roberts' solo homer tied it in the eighth, giving the D-backs a win that all but ended the divisional race with only 22 games remaining.

Arizona starter Daniel Hudson (15-9) allowed one run in seven innings and won his third straight start.

The Giants looked like getting a crucial win, leading until the eighth, when Ryan Vogelsong (10-6) gave up two runs. He has lost four straight starts.

AP

Arizona Diamondbacks' Geoff Blum, center, celebrates with Aaron Hill (2) and Gerardo Parra after Blum and Parra scored on Willie Bloomquist's triple off of San Francisco Giants pitcher Ramon Ramirez in the eighth inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011.

Marlins 5, Phillies 4, 14 innings

In Miami, Mike Cameron drove in the winning run with a two-out, bases-loaded walk in the 14th inning, as Florida edged Philadelphia with the aid of an overturned ruling after a video review.

Hunter Pence was ruled out on fan interference in the sixth inning after initially being awarded a double, and the ruling change may have cost the Phillies two runs. They played the game under protest.

The lead changed hands four times, and Florida came from behind for the second game in a row to take the series.

The Marlins had a hit in all but two innings, but they stranded a franchise-record 23 runners and went 3 for 19 with runners in scoring position. Clay Hensley (3-6) pitched two perfect innings to get the victory.

Philadelphia reliever David Herndon (1-3) issued seven walks in 3 2-3 innings.

Braves 4, Dodgers 3

In Atlanta, Martin Prado hit a game-ending RBI single in the ninth inning as Atlanta ended Los Angeles' six-game winning streak.

Atlanta avoided getting swept in a three-game series for the first time this season.

Jose Costanza set up the win with a single off Blake Hawksworth (2-5). Costanza moved to second on a wild pitch and scored easily when Prado's liner landed inside the left-field line.

Braves reliever Craig Kimbrel (4-2) retired the side in order in the top half to get the victory.

Reds 3, Cardinals 2, 10 innings

In St. Louis, Juan Francisco capped a career-best four-hit day with the go-ahead hit in the 10th inning, lifting Cincinnati over St. Louis.

The Cardinals fell 9 1/2 games behind NL Central-leading Milwaukee heading into a three-game series with the Brewers starting Monday. St. Louis was 0 for 8 with runners in scoring position and 2 for 20 with men on base.

Francisco Cordero went through the heart of St. Louis' order for his 30th save in 35 chances and 13th in a row, also giving him seven 30-save seasons. Edgar Renteria hit a two-run homer in the first for the Reds, who won for only the second time in their last eight games.

Fernando Salas (5-6) was charged with the loss, and Bill Bray (5-2) got the victory.

Mets 6, Nationals 3

In Washington, New York rallied with four runs in the sixth inning to overcome Washington.

Lucas Duda hit a long home run to tie it 3-3 and Willie Harris then had a two-run single as the Mets denied Washington pitcher Livan Hernandez a victory in what was likely his final game with the Nationals.

Hernandez, who started the Nationals' home opener in 2005, made his final start of this season, and though he's indicated a willingness to return as a reliever, the team hasn't indicated it wants him back.

The fans gave Hernandez (8-13) a warm ovation as he walked in to start the game, and a longer thank you when he left during the four-run inning.

New York reliever Ryota Igarashi (3-1) got the win.

Brewers 4, Astros 0

In Houston, Shaun Marcum pitched seven scoreless innings to steer Milwaukee to a victory that completed a three-game sweep of Houston.

Marcum (12-5) struck out eight and walked one, while Ryan Braun homered among his three hits and drove in two runs for Milwaukee, which increased its NL Central lead over St. Louis.

Houston starter Wandy Rodriguez (10-10) gave up three runs in six innings.

Padres 7, Rockies 2

In San Diego, the hosts ended a nine-game losing skid by defeating Colorado.

Jeremy Hermida and Will Venable drove in three runs apiece. Hermida had an RBI single in the first and a two-run single in the third while Venable tripled with the bases loaded in a four-run eighth inning.

Mat Latos (7-13) struck out eight in seven innings for San Diego, yielding two runs.

Colorado's Dexter Fowler notched his franchise-record 15th triple of the season.

Rockies starter Aaron Cook (3-9) gave up three runs in six innings.

Cubs 6, Pirates 3

In Chicago, Randy Wells pitched six strong innings to help Chicago avoid a sweep by Pittsburgh.

Wells (7-4) was impressive again after pitching his first career shutout Monday. He allowed one run.

Marlon Byrd drove in two runs for the Cubs.

Pirates starter Charlie Morton (9-9) allowed four runs in 4 1-3 innings.

Rangers 11, Red Sox 4

In Boston, the Texas Rangers piled on seven runs in the sixth inning and went on to beat the Boston Red Sox, maintaining their 3-1/2 game buffer atop the American League West standings.

Josh Hamilton capped the big sixth with a bases-loaded triple as the visitors opened a 9-0 lead and ended the night for Boston starter John Lackey (12-11).

Ian Kinsler homered, drove in three runs and made a stellar defensive play for the Rangers, who took two of three in a vital weekend series.

Texas starter Matt Harrison (11-9) allowed two runs in seven innings.

Boston fell 1-1/2 games behind New York in the AL East standings.

Yankees 9, Blue Jays 3

In New York, Derek Jeter tied a career high with five RBIs as New York completed a three-game sweep of Toronto.

Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and Nick Swisher all homered for the AL East leaders, while C.C. Sabathia (19-7) struck out 10 in 7 1-3 innings to win his seventh consecutive start against Toronto.

One big reason for that success: Sabathia has dominated Blue Jays slugger Jose Bautista. The major league home run leader is 0 for 18 with eight strikeouts against the lefty after going hitless in three tries Sunday.

Bautista did hit a colossal homer off Rafael Soriano in the eighth.

Brett Cecil (4-8) went six innings for the Blue Jays.

Tigers 18, White Sox 2

In Detroit, Detroit completed a three-game sweep of Chicago in emphatic fashion.

Miguel Cabrera homered and drove in four runs, and Alex Avila had a career-high four hits for the Tigers.

Starter Max Scherzer (14-8) threw seven scoreless innings for Detroit, which leads the AL Central by 6-1/2 games heading into a three-game series at second-place Cleveland. Chicago is 8-1/2 back.

Mark Buehrle (11-7) allowed seven earned runs in 3 1-3 innings for the White Sox.

The Tigers, which trailed 8-1 in Saturday's game before winning 9-8, scored 26 unanswered runs over the two games before the White Sox finally scored two in the ninth.

Angels 4, Twins 1

In Anaheim, Joel Pineiro posted his first victory in almost two months, leading Los Angeles to victory in the deciding game of the weekend series against Minnesota.

Pineiro (6-6) allowed one run over seven innings. Making his third start since a brief demotion to the bullpen, he turned around his form, having had a whopping 10.30 ERA in his previous six starts.

Bobby Abreu homered for the Angels, who are getting little help in their quest to run down Texas.

Twins starter Kevin Slowey (0-4) allowed seven hits in seven innings.

Rays 8, Orioles 1

In St. Petersburg, Jeremy Hellickson threw a complete game to guide Tampa Bay past Baltimore.

Hellickson (12-10) has two complete games this season, both against the Orioles.

Reid Brignac had three RBIs for Tampa Bay, while Sean Rodriguez hit a two-run homer with two outs in the second.

Baltimore starter Jeremy Guthrie (6-17) gave up seven runs over five innings en route to his major league-worst 17th loss.

Indians 9, Royals 6

In Kansas City, Shelley Duncan had a career high five RBIs with a pair of homers into the gusting wind, powering Cleveland past Kansas City.

Duncan hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning and a two-run shot in the eighth for his third career multihomer game.

Asdrubal Cabrera returned to the lineup to drive in two more runs while Jason Donald and Jerad Head also had RBIs for the Indians, who notched their 70th win, surpassing last year's total, as they try to keep pace with Detroit in the AL Central.

Indians pitcher Jeanmar Gomez (2-2) was effective again in his second start since getting recalled from the minors, allowing only an RBI groundout in 5 1-3 innings.

Royals starter Jeff Francis (5-15) couldn't end his home woes. He allowed four runs—all in the first two innings—and has not won at Kauffman Stadium since May.

Athletics 8, Mariners 5

In Oakland, the hosts completed a three-game sweep of Seattle.

David DeJesus and Ryan Sweeney each drove in two runs, Hideki Matsui doubled three times, while Kurt Suzuki, Brandon Allen and Josh Willingham also drove in runs for the A's, who made up partially for the five straight losses heading into the series.

Athletics starter Trevor Cahill (10-13) allowed one run over five innings.

Blake Beavan (3-5) gave up four runs in five innings for Seattle, which has lost four straight.

Colts owner says Manning's status remains the same

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay hasn't been shy about using Twitter to share his thoughts.

Not this time—and certainly not when it involves the health of his star quarterback.

Hours after a local sports talk radio host tweeted that Peyton Manning would need a second surgery on his injured neck, prompting more speculation about the Manning's opening-day status, Irsay responded through his favorite social media site.

"There is nothing2say on Peyton's status except we move cautiously n deliberately on projecting,beyond day2day,his healing process n recovery," Irsay wrote.

It was about as cautious as the Colts owner has been in his posts.

In July, Irsay used Twitter to announce Manning had signed a five-year, $90 million contract. In August, he wrote that he was in Hattiesburg, Miss., where Brett Favre lives, prompting speculation he was trying to bring Favre out of retirement to be Manning's backup. That didn't happen. He also announced the signing of 16-year NFL veteran Kerry Collins on the site.

But Irsay's latest posting came amid new reports swirling about Manning's possible availability for Sunday's season opener at Houston.

After the original posting, ESPN reported that Manning was expected to see more doctors about the slow pace of his recovery. Presumably, Manning has been seeing doctors regularly since he agreed to his new deal on July 30 because team officials have repeatedly said Manning would not be cleared to practice without the consent of the doctors.

ATALIG

From Page 28

hole No. 2 and was referring to the long distances of holes No. 17, 18, and 1.

Kim, meanwhile, scratched an impressive 75 that worked out to a Ladies Flight-best 59. Jeon Young Im grossed an 89, but ended up in second place with a 61, while Yuko Togawa's 79 slid into third place with a modified card of 63. A total of 17 players made up the field.

Ed Cho topped the nine-player A Flight with a gross score of 78 that factored into a 59; he donated his winnings back to the cause. Alex Sablan and Freddie Cataluna both grossed identical 80s, but Sablan's handicap gave him the nod for runner-up by a stroke, 62-61.

In the 22-member B Flight, junior golfer Lawrence Camacho Jr. grossed an 84 that factored into a 61. Camacho's score edged out the post-handicap score of 62 registered by both Ray Villagomez Rene Bartallones.

The C Flight winner was John D. Cruz, who turned in an 81 gross score that worked out into a 57. Mark Blackburn wrote in a raw 94 that also formatted into a 57 for second place and Jack McClure rounded out the third spot with a gross 87 for a 59 modified count; 31 players made up the C-flight.

In the Senior Flight, Jimmy Whang's grossed a 91 for a 64 and was awarded first place ahead of Ed Manibusan. Manibusan scored a 77 gross that also came out to a 64 modified tally, while Lee Jong Sik's 81 gross card finished a stroke short after the format adjustment; 17-players made up the senior field.

First place winners took home $300, second $200, and third $100.

The turnout of the event improved from 77 players last year to 99 its second time around.

Net proceeds raised from the event were donated to the Marianas Tourism Education Council, which is an organization focused on increasing awareness and supporting tourism related programs benefitting students of the CNMI Public School System.

The event utilized a modified Calloway scoring system, which works like an individual 18-hole tournament where a player's handicap is used to formulate their net score; the player's highest and lowest scores are also discarded during this process.

HOOPS

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sliced the lead to four, 85-81, with 1:52 left on the clock.

The Hoops sued for time and when game resumed Sablan hit a back-breaking trey to give his team more cushion. The daredevil wingman also connected on a drive and a free undergoal stab in the ensuing plays to ensure the Hoops' victory.

Sablan finished with 24 points. He, Fitial, and Villacrusis combined for more than half of the Hoops' total production, as the trio teamed up for 71 points. Four VisMinda players scored in double figures, but Elgene Mangali (21), Marlon De Dios (16), Sison (14), and Tom Santos' (11) total output of 63 fourth was still eight points short of the combined points of the Hoops' triple-threat.

Mangali canned two early triples for VisMinda's 24-20 lead at the end of the opening period. The second quarter was an even match, as VisMinda and the Hoops gunners were both on target in that canto, which ended with the latter ahead by only a hair, 44-43.

Sablan, who was held to two field goals in the first half, finally proved his worth in the third period, tallying 11 markers, nine of them were scored in succession. Villacrusis chipped in eight in that canto and the Hoops stretched the lead to seven, 69-62, entering the final quarter. Mangali, who finished with 12 points in the first half, was scoreless in the third frame.

In the payoff canto, Fitial picked up where Villacrusis and Sablan left off, knocking in three triples early on. The defense of VisMinda's big men sagged in the paint, allowing Fitial open looks for long jumpers. When Fitial stopped popping triples, Sablan took over and hit clutch shots to save the Hoops' winning streak and hand VisMinda its second loss in five matches.

Ali'i Konflikt 102, MDX 83

In the curtain-raiser, MAFEA/Ali'i Konflikt routed MDX/Blue Haus, 102-83.

Ali'i Konflikt improved to an even 3-3 slate, while MDX fell to a dismal 0-6 mark.

A fourth-quarter juggernaut lifted Ali'i Konflikt to the 19-point win, as MDX failed to match its foe's scoring run in the final canto. Ali'i Konflikt exploded for 40 points in the fourth period against MDX's 25.

MDX was behind by only four at the end of the third period, 58-62, and even led at the break, 43-39, before Ali'i Konflikt began hitting triples in the payoff quarter to steal the win. J.R. Barrios fired three treys, Jawn Joyner had two, and Jomary Tumaquip made one. MDX logged only three triples and the last two game when Ali'i Konflikt had already broken the game wide open.

Joyner paced Ali'i Konflikt with 24 points, while Barrios added 21. Elmer Esdrelon and Ivan Devero contributed 13 apiece. Ed Diaz led all scorers with his 33 markers.

First Game

MAFEA/Ali'i Konflikt 102 – Joyner 24, Barrios 21, Devero 13, Esdrelon 13, Aquino 9, Guiab 8, Tumaquip 7, Mendoza 5, Talania 2.

MDX/Blue Haus 83 – E. Diaz 22, Palacios 12, Babauta 11, Lauron 10, Tenorio 9, Z. Diaz 8.

Scoring by quarters: 17-17, 39-43, 61-58, 102-83.

Second Game

UPA/Docomo Hoopaholics 94 – Villacrusis 26, D. Sablan 24, Fitial 21, Mendez 7, Lee 6, Manibusan 6, Villagomez 2, Palacios 2.

VisMinda/Satbahi 84 – Mangali 21, De Dios 16, Sison 14, Santos 11, Inos 8, Manalo 7, Barbo 5, Aquino 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-24, 44-43, 69-62, 94-84.

HI-5

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1, 19-10, in the final canto to eke out the victory, which improved its win-loss card to 3-1.

Both teams started slow as Rollers 1 managed an early 11-10 lead in the opening period. Hi-5, however, regrouped in the second quarter and claimed a 21-16 edge at the pause. Don Hockett led Hi-5 with nine points in the opening half.

Rollers 1 clawed its way back into the game and knotted the score at 37-all heading into the final period.

Rollers 1 played physical defense and connected with three treys in the third period. Jon Cenir led the comeback with 10 points, however it was short lived as Hi-5 caught fire at crunch time and finished off their opponents.

Frank Machahito led the late surge with eight points. He finished with a team-high 15 points, while Rollers 1's Cenir scored 16 points in the setback.

In the second game, the Sonics won its third game in a row after an opening night loss to the Ol'Aces with a 60-25 romping of CK Blazers.

Ezra Caro paced Sonics with eight points in the first quarter as his team built an early 18-7 lead.

His teammate Bryl Alegre kept it rolling with five markers in the second quarter as Sonics pulled ahead, 27-16. The Blazers' offense struggled, as Cody Kaipat was its only hot hand; he managing 11 points in the first half.

It went back and forth after the break as the Sonics maintained a 35-22 margin heading into the payoff period.

The Sonics then caught their second wind as they stuffed the Blazers to just three points in the clutch and ran up the scoreboard in end.

Caro and Melvin Cadiang led the Sonics with 10 points apiece. Blazers' Kaipat was held scoreless in the second half, but still led his team in points.

The U19 season continues tomorrow with NMC-Proa taking on Kagman at 5pm in Gualo Rai.

In U15 play on Saturday, the 670 Rollers schooled RBC Angels, 56-21.

Showing no mercy, 670 Rollers took it right to the young Angels squad, amassing a stout, 22-0, lead in the opening eight minutes. Emerson Feria led the charge with eight markers in the period.

The Angels finally hit the board in the second quarter, however the Rollers stretched its margin to 30-6, at halftime.

The Angels were unable to climb out of the hole in the third quarter as the Rollers pulled away, 43-15; and the Rollers cruised to an easy win in the final canto.

The other two matches on the docket Saturday did not take place as the players of one of the teams had to attend a funeral, while Ol'Aces pulled out of the league on short notice causing another cancellation of the final pairing.

The U15 girls national team was on bye this week. The RBC may try to form a late entry to take the place of Ol'Aces. This week's matchups are still pending adjustment of the schedule of games.

Last Wednesday, Ol'Aces (2-1) gifted a 20-0 forfeit win to NMC-Proa (1-2) due to a roster shortage. Both Rollers 1 and Blazers now hold identical cards of 1-3.

FRIDAY
First Game

Sonics 60 – Cadiang 10, Caro 10, Alegre 9, Del Rosario 8, Tudela 8, Aranda 6, Salem 4, De Guzman 3, Villanueva 2.

CK Blazers 25 – Kaipat 11, Sablan 5, Torres 5, Camacho 2, Basa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-7, 27-16, 35-22, 60-25.

Second Game

Hi-5 56 – Macahito 15, Salem 13, Hockett 11, Manibusan 7, Urbano 6, Sablan 2, Atalig 2.

Rollers 1 47 – Cenir 16, Norita 9, Darag 9, Fransisco 6, DL Guerrero 5, Diaz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-11, 21-16, 37-37, 56-47.

SATURDAY

670 Rollers 56 – Feria 12, Factor 8, Pangelinan 8, Iglesias 5, Malonzo 4, Cayading 3, Floresca 3, Lansang 5, Admana 4, Camacho 2.

RBC Angels 21 – Feria 8, Amog 5, Morales 4, Abobo 2, Valencia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-0, 30-6, 43-15, 56-21.

CNMI

From Page 28

staying strong at second with its 30-18-16 haul, while Fiji hangs on to third with its 15 gold medals, 18 and 15 silver and bronze, respectively.

Papua New Guinea is closing in at fourth with its 14-12-16 tally, while Tonga, Samoa, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia are the only four other countries to win gold medals with only five days left in the Games.

Mister, Nelson win debut

The CNMI duo of Chris Nelson and Tyce Mister had a winning debut in the beach volleyball competition after surviving Palau in three sets yesterday at the Terrain de beach-volley Koutio in Dumbea.

Nelson and Mister took the opening set against Palau's Christopher Carlos and Kingsley Ngirmidol, 21-16, but failed to wrap up the game early after losing the second set, 18-21. Then in the deciding third set, Mister and Nelson regrouped to pull off a 15-11 triumph.

Next up for the CNMI pair is American Samoa with Mister and Nelson squaring off against Sigalu Selefuti Aitui and Sam Samasoni Luiava, who dropped their opening matches to siblings Dino and Vatea Tauraa of Tahiti, 18-21, 21-18, 12-15.

Besides Tahiti and the CNMI, also winning at the start of the beach volleyball competition were New Caledonia against Vanuatu; Fiji versus Guam; PNG over the Cook Islands; Tonga against the Solomon Islands.

Abrams places fourth in 100m

CNMI sprinter Rachel Abrams also debuted in the Games yesterday, racing in the 100m at the Stade Numa Daly in Noumea and finishing fourth among seven runners in her heat.

Abrams clocked in at 13.40 seconds on Heat 1 to beat Vanuatu's Susan Tama (13.51 seconds), Palau's Ruby Gabriel (13.94 seconds), and Nauru's Vashti Agege (14.40 seconds). Fiji's Paulini Korowaoa ruled the heat with her 12.63 seconds, followed by Nauru's Lovelite Detenamo (12.68 seconds), and Vanuatu's Daphne Nalawas (13.08 seconds).

Northern Marianas Athletics head coach Elias Rangamar, who stayed on Saipan and let coach Ron Olopai guide the three NMA bets in New Caledonia, said usually the Top 2 or 3 finishers in each heat advanced to the next round, depending on the number of runners.

Rangamar added he was impressed with Rangamar's debut race considering she has been having shin problems for the past few months.

Runner Douglas Dillay also raced yesterday and placed seventh among nine runners with his time of 2:15.59. New Caledonia's Adrien Kela topped Heat 1 at 2:05.70.

The third member of the lean CNMI Athletics Team—Trevor Ogumoro—will have his first event tomorrow when he competes in the long jump. Abrams and Dillay have two more events left—the long jump and 200m run for the former and 400m run and 400m hurdles for the latter.

SANTIAGO

From Page 27

with bodybuilding and fitness competitions back in 1997.

She has won medals in the Pacific Games; Guam's Kontenda Classic; and recently competed in the Stingray Classic in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Saipan Fitness Center's Jim Rice turned her on to the sport and since then she has competed in bodybuilding for two years, fitness competitions for seven, and competed most recently in the bikini category this past year.

Although Saipan has offered bodybuilding events for men in the past, the Dee Clayton Classic is the first competition to offer women's events.

YOUTH

From Page 27

driven home by Ricardo Dela Cruz; Ol'Aces went 1-2-3 in the bottom frame.

The Lions left a man at third base to start the second and the Ol'Aces pulled ahead, 2-1, in the bottom half of the inning.

Harry Nakamura led off with a base hit and scored off an error, while Dave Hosono made it on and around off errors an out later.

Both teams left a runner stranded in the third inning and Aces' Jake Santos struck out the side in the top half of the fourth; his team then added two more runs in the bottom frame.

Nakamura was hit by a pitch and was driven home by Rocco Reyes.

Hosono then reached off a fielder's choice and was brought home off a base rip by Ton Sablan.

In the end, the Lions mustered only one run in their finals stand off an RBI single by Richard Dela Cruz that scored his brother Ricardo. However the former was caught trying to steal second base for an abrupt ending to the match.

Both squads came up empty in the first inning of the final pairing and the visiting Fielders took a 3-0 lead in the top of the second off some sketchy infield defense.

The Lions tried to answer in the bottom frame but left a runner at third base.

The Fielders were forced 1-2-3 to start the third, but held the Lions scoreless in the bottom frame.

The Fielders then added two more runs in the fourth off two hits and a walk before securing the win.

DEE CLAYTON CLASSIC

Santiago, Kawahara take top honors

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Johnny Santiago, third from left, won the men's division of Saturday's Dee Clayton Classic-2011 Marianas Bodybuilding Championships held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Yumiko Kawahara, third from right, won the women's division of Saturday's Dee Clayton Classic-2011 Marianas Bodybuilding Championships held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Johnny Santiago and Yumiko Kawahara were declared overall champions in Saturday's Dee Clayton Classic-2011 Marianas Bodybuilding Championships held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Santiago is a 42-year old electrical technician from Dandan and is a regular at Gold's Gym. He also won first place in the male bodybuilder middleweight class ahead of Catalino Riodique of Garapan.

The 51-year old Kawahara, meanwhile, is a tour supervisor and a resident of Capital Hill.

All 11 participants were first-time competitors.

Other winners include 55-year-old homemaker Jamriang Frieden, who took first prize in both the bikini and female figure tall class. Lucia Morales, a 41-year-old dentist from Garapan, won runner-up honors in the tall division, while 43-year-old teacher Bernie Palacios of Dandan took first runner-up in the bikini division.

Gold's Gym employee, 20-year-old Raymond "Ray-Ray" Santos of Koblerville, won first place in the male physique category ahead of co-worker, 20-year-old Joel Tudela of Dandan, and 40-year-old trade specialist Manny Aaron of Kagman.

In addition, 37-year-old driver Gayan Perera of Tanapag won first place in the male bodybuilder lightweight class.

Bodybuilder G. Gray of Guam was on hand as the special guest judge along with Jerome Ierome, Belle Busby, Jeff Boyer of IP&E, Hyatt Regency Saipan's Robin Sapong, and Marianas High School's John Davis.

All category winners received medals of recognition, while the overall winners were awarded trophies.

Event organizer Dee Clayton has been planning this event for two years and hopes to feature the spectacle as an annual event and wants to invite competitors from Guam and open it to military entrants.

"It took a lot of planning to finally put on this event and I am really excited to expose this sport to the CNMI. Promoting fitness promote healthy lifestyles and I want this sport-hobby to grow on island," said Clayton.

Clayton is a Saipan resident who started getting involved

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17 pairs win debuts in Shirley's Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Seventeen pairs got off to a good start in the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic, winning their debut games over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

Leading the list is Andrew Galvez and Angie Ito who teamed up in beating Ferdie Arago and Lanie Bartolome in the mixed doubles AA division, 21-17, 13-21, 21-16.

In the mixed lower A, six pairs played over the weekend with the duo of Malou Malasarte and Robert Reyes recording twin wins to take the early lead in the group. Reyes and Malasarte downed Macoi Aguda and Lot Abuel, 21-17, 11-21, 21-19, and Marylyn Montano and Roger Vales, 21-18, 17-21, 21-16.

Other winners in the opening week of the mixed lower A were Gary Bandoja and Hannah Choi, and Galvez and Merlie Tolentino. Bandoja and Choi swept Montano and Vales, 21-10, 21-13, and Galvez and Tolentino downed and Hapi Gabriel and Jaja Samonte, 21-13, 21-11.

In the mixed doubles 40-and-above, which is divided into two pools, five teams recorded wins at the start of the competition. Pool A winners include the duos of Lito Mendoza and Anna Alvarez and Jojo Savellano and Juneh Padua. The two pairs both defeated Puy Macario and Annette Ta. In Pool B, Mario Diola and Hannah Choi, Vales and Babes Cielo, and Vic Regis and Annarose Omori prevailed in their respective matches. Diola and Choi outclassed Saul Gargalo and Marlene Peraja, 21-19, 17-21, 21-19; Vales and Cielo triumphed over Alvin Alvarez and Emily Vargas, 21-18, 21-14; and Reyes and Omori edged Jerry Tan and Loyda Ito, 21-14, 11-21, 21-9.

The mixed doubles BB also has two group with Pool A having six teams and Pool B drawing nine. Pool A matches saw the pair of Glen Bultjenss and Wendy Fernandez and Gargallo and Annette Quiambao topping Cristy Villaflor and Kanata Omori, 21-19, 21-10, and Tan and Shirley Kim, 24-22, 19-21, 21-17, respectively.

Two matches were also played in Pool B with Joseph Santos and Elma Labuson winning over Samonte and Aries Cordero, 21-17, 19-21, 21-12, and Diola and Julie Lee thumping Eric Pena and Cielo,12-21, 21-17, 21-17.

In the mixed doubles BB division, Luis Camacho and Elna Curate and Roma Barlao and her partner triumphed in their first match in Pool A. Also making it to the win column in the mixed doubles BB were Pool B's Joe Ortega and Kim Boranah and Jerome Malasarte and Chris Obaldo.

Youth league resumes at 'Tan Ko' field

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Major League Summer/Fall Youth Baseball season continued with three exhibition games last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The games were classified as exhibition matches due to time constraints and roster shortages.

Some teams had to borrow players from other groups to form nine-man rosters and thus winners were already declared and the matches were played in an exhibition setting.

Despite the finals scores, Titanium, the Ol'Aces, and Fielders 2 were awarded forfeit victories in the standings.

On the field, Titanium tied Fielders 1, 5-5, in four innings; the home team Ol'Aces trumped the Kagman Lions, 4-2, in five frames; and Fielders 2 shut out the Lions, 5-0, in four.

Weather permitting, the season continues next Saturday with the Ol'Aces taking on Fielders 1 at 9am, followed by the Lions against Titanium at 11:30am. Fielders 1 then pull double duty against sister-team Fielders 2 at 2pm.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Fielders 2's Khobby Kaipat shows some range at third base, sniffing out a hot bouncer down the line in last Saturday's SML Fall Youth Baseball match against Kagman Lions at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfielld.

In the opener, visiting Titanium drew first blood in the top of the first when Ton Guerrero led off with a double and made it around off errors; the Fielders left runners on the corners in the bottom frame.

Titanium threatened again with runners on second and third base in the top of the second, but the Fielders escaped unscathed and took a 2-1 lead in the bottom frame off three hits, two walks, and errors.

Titanium stopped the bleeding with the bases loaded and tied the game at 2-all in the top of the third. Joe Palacios busted a two-out double and was driven home by Jeremy Lizama.

The Fielders went three up and three down in the bottom frame and Titanium jumped in front, 5-2, in the top of the fourth off three hits and an error.

The Fielders answered with three runs of its own in the final stand, but organizers opted to call off the scrimmage.

In the second game, the visiting Lions broke the ice in the top of the first when Cedric Ada reached on a single and was

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Shirley's caging meeting postponed to Wednesday

The organizational meeting for the 3rd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League set for yesterday has been reset to tomorrow, Sept. 7, 6:30pm at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Garapan.

League coordinator Boy Lingcaso said he was forced to postpone Monday's meeting because majority of participating teams were not able to confirm their attendance.

Lingcaso said so far 12 teams have already confirmed their participation in the caging. The list includes inaugural champion Micronesian Brokers, Inc., Mobil, PSS/McGraw-Hill, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Pacific Trading, Wushin, Grillin', DFS, GPPC, and host Shirley's.

Each team is allowed to recruit only five players outside their companies.

Organizers are planning to hold games in the Shirley's caging every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Lingcaso said teams rosters and if possible the $500 entrance fee for the competition should be submitted at the meeting.

Last year, 10 teams joined the second edition of the Shirley's caging with Pacific Islands Club winning over Aqua Resort Club in the best-of-three title series. In 2009, MBI swept Advance in the best-of-three finals,

For more information about this year's Shirley's caging, contact Lingcaso at 233-4519 or 287-2926. ***(PR)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI makes playoffs in baseball

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI marched into the FinalFour of the baseball competition in the 2011 Pacific Games after slipping past Fiji in a crucial game, 2-1, yesterday at the Baseball Mont-Dore in New Caledonia.

The Commonwealth sluggers finished the round-robin contest with a 3-2 record, winning its last two games in the elimination round. The CNMI tied New Caledonia, but the host took the No. 3 seeding in the playoffs, as it won over the former in their first meeting last week, 3-2.

The CNMI will duel New Caledonia anew tomorrow at 9am (8am Saipan time) for the second and last semis ticket. Palau and Guam, which had similar 4-1 cards will battle for the first finals berth today at 1pm (12nn Saipan time). The winner of the CNMI-New Caledonia tiff will then face the loser of the Palau-Guam tussle for the second and last finals seat tomorrow at 1pm. The gold medal game will be played this Thursday.

No other details of the CNMI-Fiji match was provided at the Pacific Games' website, however the Commonwealth sluggers enjoyed a slight advantage in the make-or-break game, as Fiji played twice yesterday. Fiji challenged New Caledonia in the morning match and lost, 1-9.

With its 1-3 record, Fiji needed to win against the CNMI to catch the last bus to the playoffs. However, the CNMI foiled Fiji's bid and the latter went on to join American Samoa in the sidelines. American Samoa finished the elimination round winless in five games, while Fiji had a 1-4 record. Fiji was forced to play back-to-back games, as its match over New Caledonia was rained-out last Saturday.

Teams rested last Sunday to give way to the Pacific Games general assembly and athletes returned to action yesterday.

Going into the final week of the 15-day competition, New Caledonia continued to pull away in the medal standings with its 67-55-26 gold-silver-bronze medal tally. Tahiti is

See CNMI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

In this file photo, Jesus Iguel is seen throwing to second base during a local tournament. Iguel had two RBIs in the CNMI's 9-4 win over American Samoa last Saturday and the Commonwealth sluggers notched back-to-back wins in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia after eliminating Fiji yesterday, 2-1.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Rollers 1's John Cenir tries to blow past Hi-5 defenders in last Saturday's Rotary Club Youth Basketball League U19 matchup held at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Hi-5 outlasts Rollers 1, 56-47

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Hi-5 fended off a third quarter rally by Rollers 1 to prevail, 56-47, as the U19 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League continued Friday at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

The game was tied at 37-all heading into the final quarter, but Hi-5 outscored Rollers

See HI-5 on Page 26

Atalig, Kim lead winners in Docomo Classic

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Atalig

Kim

J.J. Atalig and Jeong Yoon Kim led a slew of winners in last Saturday's 2nd Docomo Classic Golf Tournament held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Atalig topped the Championship Flight, while Kim won the Ladies Flight.

Atalig grossed a 79 that calculated into a modified score of 65 for first place. Joung Hoon Park grossed an 81 and finished three strokes back, while Nick Sablan's gross of 89 was good for third place with a modified score of 72.

Atalig has been playing golf for just three years and was a little surprised to take top honors because he was not very familiar with the scoring format.

"Normally I play from the blue tees, but the tourney was from the white boxes and overall I felt pleased with my position heading into the final three holes. It feels great to win, but all in all I was focusing more on having fun," he said.

Atalig started the day on

See ATALIG on Page 26

Hoops scoop fourth straight win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The UPAA/Docomo Hoopaholics are still on a roll, notching their fourth straight win after outclassing VisMinda/Satbahi, 94-84, in the second game in the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League 2011 Bud Cup last Sunday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

The trio of James Villacrusis, Kelvin Fitial, and Dave Sablan did the damage for the Hoops with the latter scoring a string of seven points in the homestretch to foil VisMinda's last-minute rally.

The Hoops led by as much as 12 early in the fourth canto before VisMinda launched a comeback midway. Five straight points off Marlon Sison's triple and Manolo Manalo's layup

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

UPAA/Docomo Hoopaholics' Dave Sablan, left, is hounded by VisMinda Satbahi's Elgene Mangali, second left, and Marlon Sison, third left, while Kelvin Fitial waits for the pass during their game in the UFO Bud Cup caging last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.